

THE JERUSALEM POST

The States await!

From Israel, just dial:
177-100-2727



See back page
MAZADA TOURS
Middle East Experts
Jordan & Egypt

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1996 • ELUL 27, 5756 • 28-RABIA 2, 1417

Money
The Jerusalem Post Business Supplement

- ★ Shaping the multimedia future
- ★ A happy new year?
- ★ Ciao De Benedetti!

It's all in the Money Magazine TODAY



Palestinian merchants protesting the takeover by settlers of two allegedly Palestinian-owned stores argue with IDF soldiers who blocked their entry into Hebron's Jewish quarter yesterday. Story, Page 2

PM: Peace with PA more likely than with Syria

Levy rejects Assad demand to renew talks where left off

ELDAD BECK, HILLEL KUTTLER, and news agencies

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told New York business leaders yesterday that he was more optimistic about reaching an accord with the Palestinians than achieving peace with Syria.

"Syria essentially wants ... to resume negotiations by saying to us, 'We need to negotiate the future of the Golan Heights, therefore, you [must] accept our demand to cede the Golan Heights,'" Netanyahu told a breakfast meeting of the Association for a Better New York.

"At a certain point we will discover whether Syria is interested in peace. I'm more sanguine about the Palestinian plan ... both sides have a vested interest," he added.

Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser, Dore Gold, had met with US officials in Washington in an attempt to reach a formula for restarting the Syrian talks.

US special Middle East peace process coordinator Dennis Ross will likely visit the region next week to pursue resuming the negotiations, indicating progress is at hand, an Israeli Embassy official said.

Syria's official media, however, said that Netanyahu was making the resumption of peace negotiations impossible by ignoring the outcome of nearly five years of bilateral talks.

"Netanyahu struck a new nail in the coffin of the peace process when he put more obstacles and impossible conditions which remove any possibility to resume the negotiations," the official daily *al-Baath* said.

"Netanyahu renewed his entity's obstinate and provocative stand toward peace by urging Syria to resume the talks without conditions and demanding Arabs to offer what he called tangible concessions," *al-Baath* said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy, in Paris yesterday, rejected a Syrian proposal to renew talks with Israel on the basis of the understandings reached last December at Wye Plantation.

"We don't know what was agreed there; there is no document and no Israeli signature. So instead of playing hide and seek we should go directly toward peace," Levy said, after meeting with President Jacques Chirac.

"Israel puts forward no conditions [for resuming the talks]. We accept that the Syrians will expose their positions during the direct talks, as we shall do."

Levy stressed that if the Syrians insisted on an Israeli declaration committing itself to start the talks where they left off or to accepting the principle of land for peace, then the talks would not be resumed.

(Continued on Page 2)

Arab League may decide fate of economic summit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE fate of the Cairo regional economic summit scheduled for November may be determined at an Arab League meeting of foreign ministers in the Egyptian capital this Saturday, Israeli officials and Western diplomats say.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has indicated that Cairo would cancel the conference unless the government advances the peace process with the Palestinians.

Arab officials say this means an IDF pullback in Hebron.

Sources say Mubarak recently told visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda that a decision on the fate of the summit would wait until the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting, but he was dissatisfied with the pace of the peace process.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials expressed concern over Egypt apparently turning over its decision on whether to hold the summit to the Arab League.

"This is a terrible idea as it gives countries like Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, and Libya a say in whether a conference - which they would not attend in any event - is held. Even if the Arab League does not make a decision on Saturday, indecision will be perceived as negative by businessmen abroad who need to make their plans for November," an Israeli official said.

The meeting of Arab League foreign ministers was scheduled in July, after Egypt convened the first Arab summit since 1990. Despite pressure from Syria to freeze normalization with Israel, the Arab leaders agreed to give the Netanyahu government a chance to move forward on the peace process.

If the conference is not held as planned, sources say, Egypt is weighing other possibilities, such as delaying it to the spring or downgrading its representation. The founding conference in Casablanca in 1994 and the one held a year later in Amman were attended by top-level officials.

A report yesterday said Egypt may agree to a conference only attended by businessmen. But an Israeli official said, "A conference of just businessmen would not be great for some Arab countries where government dominates the decision-making on business affairs."

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that the fate of the Cairo economic summit came up during Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's meetings in Washington on Monday. President Bill Clinton may phone Mubarak in advance of the Saturday Arab League meeting. Also, US State Department Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs Joan Spero is now in Cairo, as is Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) banker Klaus Schwab, in a bid to persuade the Egyptians to hold the summit.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General for Economic Affairs Oded Eran said Egypt should hold the summit as a favor to itself, and not as a favor to Israel. "When else is Egypt going to bring 1,000 CEOs of multinational companies and other companies to discuss investment? This is a golden opportunity for Egypt," he said.

If Egypt does completely cancel the November event, some have advocated holding the parity in Switzerland after the annual WEF conference there in January.

Ramon slams Barak, calls him a 'political novice'

SARAH HONIG

SUPPORTERS of MK Ehud Barak's bid for the Labor Party leadership gathered last night under the banner of "With Barak we'll win," while Barak's opponents were adjusting to the new situation and girding themselves for the impending showdown.

Barak invited all of Labor's elite, including the 3,600 members of the central committee, to rally to his cause.

In the end, several hundred party activists turned out at the pro-Barak gathering in Tel Aviv's Beit Hahayal. It was there that Barak initially planned to announce his decision to seek the party leadership. But the news was quickly leaked from Barak's own circle, forcing him to call a news conference on Monday.

But as Barak heiges his troops, opposing forces in the party were preparing a counter-strike. Reports reached party insiders from the US, where Peres is currently visiting, to the effect that he is livid at what was termed Barak's backstabbing.

Barak may have effectively foiled any Peres attempt to extend his tenure as party chief, but Peres is now seen as likely to form an ad hoc alliance with Barak's erstwhile foe, MK Haim Ramon.

Ramon reacted to Barak's announcement for the first time yesterday, saying that "only a political novice and a rank amateur can so pompously declare that only he can save the party, and that he and he alone can beat Bibi."

Ramon said that at this time he will not announce if and when he will seek the party leadership. "This will be a decision I will make only after the party convention in the spring. It will all depend on what sort of a party emerges from that convention," he said.

Ramon will focus his struggle ahead of the convention on a campaign to push for open primaries. Voting in such primaries is not limited to dues-paying party members. Ramon is certain this will safeguard him from the vindictiveness of the party machine, which blames him for the Histadrut's disintegration and for the electoral loss to the Likud last May.

Ramon is considered to now be at his lowest political ebb, and thus from his point of view, the later the contest for the party leadership the better. The consensus in Labor now is that Ramon is unlikely to opt for a fight if he fails to convince the party to switch to open primaries. His greatest hope is that the aggrieved Peres will do all he can to thwart Barak.

MK Uzi Barum is expected to announce within the month whether he intends to vie for the party's No. 1 slot. One man who already tossed his hat in the Labor ring - MK Ephraim Sneh - yesterday accused Ramon and Barak of "tearing the party asunder. Their unbridled rivalry has already cost us dearly during the recent elections campaign, and no doubt contributed massively to our defeat. Now with cerimonious boastfulness Ramon is pushing the party once more to personal rivalries instead of the necessary healing and rehabilitation after the bad beating we took."

Reserve commanders declare war on service evaders

Only 16.5% of potential reservist pool serves

RESERVE brigade and battalion commanders have set up a forum to combat the highly publicized drop in motivation to do reserve duty, and have declared war on those who evade it.

Some 100 reserve officers met last night to set up a body to consolidate their attack. Gathering at the Paratroopers House in Ramat Gan, the officers, mostly in their late 30's, raised ideas on how to tackle the growing trend.

"The break is growing and in a few years, if this erosion continues, we'll find ourselves alone," said Arie Neiger, a reserve paratrooper battalion commander who helped organize the meeting. "Many people don't feel that [army] service is important enough to sacrifice days to reserve duty. Each year thousands of people are getting out of the reservist pool and in simple math it means that in less than a generation, there won't be a reserve army."

Classified military data shown to the officers showed that each year more men were leaving the reserve force than entering it, mainly due to the tens of thousands who are evading service for what the officers consider illegitimate reasons. While the figures could not be published for security reasons, the statistics showed that the gap was about 15 percent.

Among the reserve officers, the term "evasion" was muttered like a curse word.

"Let's call the child by its name. It is not motivation or lack of it. It is evasion," Neiger said.

Another officer showed how the burden of reserve duty actually falls on just 16.5% of the potential reservist pool. Equating it to a soccer team, he said it was like 2.5 people playing out of a team of 11.

Some called for a "war" on those avoiding duty. Others raised the idea of suspending the driver's license of those caught evading service for illegitimate reasons. There was also talk of publicizing the names of employers who made things difficult for workers who serve.

However, the officers seemed to agree that the growing trend not only to try to avoid reserve duty, but the public legitimacy it receives needs to be reversed.

"The strength of Israel is in its mighty army. This is not a slogan," said Lt.-Col. (res.) Yehuda Brock. "It will take another generation for that for us to start thinking about doing away with reserve duty."

Noah Faran, 38, from Kfar Azzar, said the forum was made up of people who held influential positions in civilian life, and hoped they could make an impact.

He suggested increasing tax benefits for those who do reserve duty.

Neiger said the forum would serve as an apolitical lobby.

One idea that grew out of a meeting last month between reserve officers and the General Staff was to publicly express recognition to reservists. Tomorrow, the IDF will for the first time issue "Outstanding Reservist" awards in an attempt to improve the country's view of reserve duty.

UK report stirs controversy over Nazi gold

LONDON (Reuter) - Britain yesterday revived speculation over the fate of gold looted by Nazi Germany by disclosing that Switzerland turned over to Allied powers only a small part of the gold it acknowledged buying during World War II.

The Foreign Office said in a report that the sum of SF 250 million (about \$60m.) paid in 1946 to settle claims connected with Nazi gold was little more than a tenth of the gold thought to be in Swiss bank vaults at the end of the war.

The ministry, citing a published US government account, said the director of the Swiss National Bank had let slip during post-war negotiations with the Allies that Swiss banks held \$500m. when the war ended - \$6.5 billion at today's prices.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind ordered the report following pressure from MP Greville Janner, a leading member of the Jewish community, who has been campaigning on behalf of potential claimants of stolen gold.

"Rivers of gold flowed out of Nazi Germany, and the banks of that river are in Switzerland," Janner told a news conference.

He welcomed the report, which was compiled from published diplomatic documents and public archives, and called on Switzerland to return the gold.

"Switzerland now has a moral obligation to think again about restoring gold reserves, now worth billions, to the countries from which they were seized," Janner said.

He said the 1946 agreement, under which the Allies waived further claims against Switzerland, amounted to no more than a license to redistribute looted gold, much of it believed stolen from Jews.

But a Swiss official made it clear the matter was regarded as closed.

"We don't know at this moment what amounts were involved, but the whole question was settled in the treaty between the Allies and Switzerland," he told Reuters.

The Foreign Office said Switzerland acknowledged buying \$415m. in German gold from 1939-45 and \$88m. traceable originally to Belgium, but refused to concede that this was the amount they should turn over to the Allies.

It said the US, Britain and France had accepted the sum of \$60m. because they felt they had little alternative.

"This sum, far less than the \$130m. asked for by the Allied negotiators, was presented by the Swiss delegation as its final offer. The Swiss maintained consistently that Switzerland could not be held liable to restore the entire amount of looted gold transferred from Germany to Switzerland, some of which was transferred to third countries," the report said.

Verdict today on conspiracy charges in Rabin murder

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV District Court is to today hand down its verdict against Yigal Amir, his brother Haggai, and Dror Adani, who are charged with conspiring to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, plotting to harm Arabs, and possession of explosives and weapons.

Adani admitted illegally possessing an Uzi submachine gun, but has also denied conspiracy charges.

and the wounding of his bodyguard Yoram Rubin.

His brother Haggai has admitted possessing and manufacturing the explosives found stashed in his parents' Herzliya home, but he has denied the conspiracy charges.

Adani admitted illegally possessing an Uzi submachine gun, but has also denied conspiracy charges.

JORDAN • SINAI • EGYPT

1 to 4 Day Tours From \$99 p.p.	1 to 7 Day Tours From \$55 p.p.	2 to 10 Day Tours From \$79 p.p.
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--

◆ Fully escorted regular Group departures ◆ Private tailor made packages
◆ Guaranteed departures with minimum 2 passengers ◆ Air conditioned vehicles
Price does not include: Registration, Visa, Border taxes, Tips and Cairo transfers

B.T.C. Office Address: 3 Ben Sira St. Jerusalem
Travel & Tours Telephone: 02-6233 990

Hebron Arabs, settlers scuffle over two stores

A FEW dozen Arabs yesterday tried to force their way into two stores in Hebron which they claim are rightfully theirs, but the army prevented them from entering and dispersed the demonstration.

According to the IDF Spokesman, the demonstrators left peacefully after the Civil Administration promised to meet with the alleged owners to discuss their claims. The stores, located near the entrance to the Avraham Avinu Synagogue, were appropriated by the army for security reasons a few years back.

Palestinians said that they came to protest after settlers put up stickers on the shops claiming they owned them. About 20 Palestinians, urged on by a man who owned all four shops, were joined by merchants in the area. The soldiers sep-

EVELYN GORDON

arated the merchants and the settlers and the incident ended, a Palestinian observer said.

The IDF appropriated the stores because they were close to the Avraham Avinu quarter, and Palestinian observers said settlers wanted them as offices because they were so close and unused.

A large sign over a building in the quarter claims that the whole cashah was built on stolen Jewish property after 67 Jews were massacred in Hebron and the remainder fled in 1929.

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron, flatly denied the Arabs' claim that they are the true owners.

"Everyone agrees that they are

part of the property that belonged to the Jewish community in Hebron [before the 1929 massacre]," he said.

The Arabs appropriated several stores in the area after the Jews were driven out by the massacre, he continued, but the army then took them over for security reasons a few years back. Currently, some are being used by the army, while others stand empty.

The Arabs said their demonstration was in response to an attempt by Jewish settlers to break into the stores, but the army would not confirm this.

Arnon said that Jews do go to these buildings periodically to do repair work, in order to prevent them from collapsing, as some are in very poor condition. However, he said, as far as he knows, no Jews were there yesterday.

Vilna'i says army has not changed tactics since elections

EVELYN GORDON

THERE have been no changes in the way the army deals with terror since April, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Vilna'i's remarks were relayed to reporters in a joint briefing by MK Ori Orr (Labor) - who was assigned the job by committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) - and IDF Spokesman Oded Ben-Ami.

His statement regarding the army's anti-terror tactics was gleefully received by opposition MKs, who said it clearly refuted the Right's pre-election charge that the Labor government was tying the army's hands - unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has simply ignored his campaign promise to remove the alleged restraints on the army's actions. Right-wing MKs, however, contested this interpretation.

"The government doesn't dictate tactics," said Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet). "It gives a guiding principle: To fight terror... and [the army] does this in the best way it knows."

"The army fought terror then, and it is fighting terror now," he said. "[The Left] is simply making political use of this in order to attack Bibi [Netanyahu]."

A similar argument erupted over another

statement of Vilna'i's, regarding the army's position on a redeployment from Hebron.

"We presented basically the same stand [to this government] as we presented in the past, with a few unimportant changes," he said, according to Ben-Ami.

Haim Ramon (Labor) said this proves that the previous government's redeployment plan did not endanger security - though Ben-Ami refused to say whether the Rabin-Peres plan, actually accorded with the army's proposals. Ze'evi, however, said that even if it did, the lack of change in the army's position proved nothing. The army would naturally give the same answer every time it is asked "what is the least dangerous way to withdraw from Hebron?" he said.

Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said he was appalled that this is evidently still the question the army is being asked.

"I was shocked, because the NRP's demand is for a revolution in the army's position on Hebron," he said. "I expect such a directive from the political level... and I was shocked that no such directive has been received."

Vilna'i also addressed a number of other issues at the meeting. On Lebanon, he said the current period of quiet is mainly due to the Lebanese elections, and Hizbullah attacks can be expected to resume once the elections are over.

Regarding Iraq, Vilna'i said according to expert assessment, Saddam Hussein is winning. He did not discuss the possible effects of the Iraqi situation on Israel, but did say that, according to the best information available, if Hussein has any weapons at all capable of endangering Israel, they are at a very low operational level.

In response to MKs who raised the issue of declining motivation in the army, Vilna'i said that in the regular army, motivation in combat units is as high as ever. Where the problem is showing up, he said, is in absenteeism from reserve duty and the increasing unwillingness of new recruits to join combat units.

Several of the MKs suggested increased financial compensation for combat soldiers doing reserve duty. Vilna'i said that regular soldiers in combat units do receive twice as much as those in non-combat units (NIS 540 a month compared to NIS 270), but the army does not like the idea of giving extra payments to the combat reserves.

Netanyahu visits Lubavitcher rebbe's grave

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a pilgrimage yesterday to a Queens cemetery to visit the grave of the Lubavitcher rebbe, whose followers produced one of the key - and controversial - slogans of Netanyahu's election campaign.

After a five-minute visit to the grave of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Netanyahu moved to a tent where he was eagerly welcomed by Lubavitch dignitaries.

There had been rumors that major Lubavitch figures would boycott the event because they objected to Netanyahu's meeting last week with Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat.

However, shortly before Netanyahu's arrival, Lubavitch leaders said that although they were dismayed by his meeting with Arafat, they were honored by the prime minister's visit to the grave and would not disrupt it.

"We are extremely disappointed, as are many within his party" with the Arafat meeting, said Rabbi Joseph Spielman, head of the Jewish Community Council of Crown Heights, the Hasidic enclave in Brooklyn.

"The reason why there was support [for Netanyahu] was not that he would prolong the [peace] process, but that he would stop the process. The fact that he'll give in pieces instead of all at one shot makes no difference to us. You can undermine our dismay," Spielman said.

At the cemetery, Netanyahu was



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meets with President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office on Monday.

(Reuters)

praised by mining magnate Joseph Gutnick, of Melbourne, Australia, who said that generations of Lubavitch rabbis had encouraged Jewish settlement in Hebron. Netanyahu, he said, "will not allow a repeat of the [Hebron]

massacres of 1929."

In very brief remarks, Netanyahu spoke warmly of the late rebbe who "had absolute conviction in the justice of our path."

The government of Israel, he said, is also convinced of the jus-

tice of its path. "It is just that we safeguard our oldest community, in Hebron," the prime minister said. "It is just that Jews live and thrive in Judea."

Netanyahu had one more public appearance scheduled for late last

night, at the end of his two-day visit to the US. The prime minister was scheduled to share the dais with Vice President Al Gore at a fund-raising dinner for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Report: Naturalized foreign citizens traveling can keep Jerusalem residency permits

JON IMMANUEL

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reversed a government policy of forcing Jerusalem Arabs with acquired foreign passports to choose between their foreign citizenship or their Jerusalem residency permits, a Palestinian newspaper reported yesterday.

Palestinians with both documents say that in recent days they have not been asked to choose which document to keep when they go to the Interior Ministry offices to obtain a return visa before they travel abroad.

The Interior Ministry, however, said it has received no new guidelines on the matter.

The Al-Quds daily said government sources maintained Netanyahu had quietly dropped the policy because it was unfair.

Under the policy applied by the Interior Ministry, a naturalized American citizen who wanted to travel would essentially have no choice but to forgo his Jerusalem residency permit, because he might have no document other than a US passport on which to travel.

Many Palestinians gave up their Jordanian citizenship on becoming US citizens. A Jerusalem residency permit is not a passport and a Jerusalem resident may not acquire a Palestinian passport.

Furthermore, the rule applies to someone born in Jerusalem but not someone who acquired foreign citizenship by birth and later acquired a Jerusalem residency permit.

When Al-Quds raised this problem with Netanyahu during an

interview last month he said he was unaware of it and would study the matter.

This regulation has always existed but its enforcement apparently only began recently, in what may have been an attempt to reduce the number of Arabs legally residing in Jerusalem. Jerusalem residents who have left the city for more than seven years are not included in the change of policy.

Palestinian sources said the matter was brought up during the Netanyahu meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and the change in the policy was a quid pro quo for Arafat's agreeing to close Palestinian Authority offices in Jerusalem.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tova Ellinson denied the policy was unfair, maintaining it was consistent with the law that states: "If a non-Jew comes here and wants Israeli citizenship he must forgo his foreign citizenship." She said many countries did not permit dual citizenship.

The clear implication is that a non-Jewish Jerusalem resident must choose to become an Israeli citizen - which he can - if he wants to remain in Jerusalem and also travel abroad, thus strengthening Israel's demographic hold on Jerusalem.

Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuntab, a naturalized US citizen, who was offered the choice when he left the country three weeks ago, called the policy "ethnic cleansing."

Jordan to reconsider allowing Israelis to cross over via Allenby Bridge

HAIM SHAPIRO

JORDAN is to re-examine the possibility of allowing Israelis to cross into Jordan via the Allenby Bridge, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti told Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav.

Katsav, who yesterday concluded a two-day official visit to Jordan, met with Kabariti and Crown Prince Hassan.

Until now, Israelis and Jordanians have had to cross the border either at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge near Beit She'an or at the Arava crossing near Eilat. Only Palestinians, foreign tourists and diplomats have been permitted to use the Allenby Bridge, the most direct route between Jerusalem and Amman.

The Jordanians have been wary of allowing other traffic on the

Allenby Bridge, apparently for fear of alienating the Palestinians, who claim that the bridge should be under their jurisdiction.

Following his meeting with Kabariti, Katsav told reporters that the Jordanian prime minister had said that virtually the only economic advances resulting from the peace treaty were in the realm of tourism. Katsav reported that Kabariti had said that the entire Arab world was watching and noting every difficulty.

Kabariti pressed for Israel to allow Royal Jordanian Airlines to fly more passengers from Ben-Gurion Airport and Amman. Until now, the Civil Aviation Authority has said that it would only review the issue after the flights by Royal Jordanian and El Al have been going on for six months.

It was agreed that both Katsav and Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Salah Rusheidat would go to the annual convention of the American Society of Travel Agents, which is to be held in Bangkok next month.

Three killed in road accidents

DAVID RUDGE and Itim

THE carnage on the roads continued unabated yesterday when three people were killed in separate accidents.

A driver was killed and his passenger seriously hurt when their car overturned in the Galilee. Police said the accident happened shortly after midnight Monday on a road leading to Makriviya east of Acre.

The car, being driven by

Hawash Mahadi, 22 of J'daideh village, apparently swerved off the road, overturned and crashed into an open field.

Police said Mahadi was killed and the passenger in the car, also a resident of J'daideh, was seriously injured and was taken by ambulance to Nahariya hospital.

A 35-year-old man from a vil-

lage near Nablus was run over yesterday by a motorcyclist while crossing Ramat Gan's Jabotinsky Street.

The motorcyclist was slightly injured and taken to Ichilov Hospital.

The driver of a car was killed yesterday afternoon when he hit an electricity cabinet on the side of the road and his vehicle overturned several times.

PEACE

(Continued from Page 1)

Levy, who also met yesterday with French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, did ask the French to pass a message to both the Syrians and the Lebanese. Levy did not reveal the contents of the message, but it seems it deals with the "Lebanon first" proposal.

According to Levy, the Syrians had misunderstood Israel's intentions with that proposal. "The Syrians thought that we were trying, with that idea, to avoid negotiations with them," Levy said, adding that the proposal had been meant as a confidence-building measure, as well as a way to secure Israel's northern border.

French officials met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara last week. Asked whether Paris was offering to mediate between Israel and Syria, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said: "France is listening to all sides. It is always ready to help."

French officials believe the "Lebanon first" idea will not get anywhere. They do not, however, see any risk of an Israeli-Syrian military confrontation, even if peace talks are not resumed soon.

Netanyahu, after meeting with President Bill Clinton on Monday evening, told Israeli reporters that resuming the talks depends on Syria's understanding that his government has adopted an approach to the negotiations that is different from its predecessor's.

"From our perspective, we are ready to resume talks yesterday, as I told President Clinton. Syria is not exhibiting the same readiness that we'd like. But I'm prepared to be surprised," Netanyahu

said. "Is Syria interested in resuming the diplomatic process with Israel or is it presenting us with ultimatums, like on the future of the Golan, that it knows from the start we won't commit to?"

Ross told reporters following the White House meeting that Netanyahu exhibited "real fervor" in wanting to see talks resume, and said the US is "working also with the Syrians to see if we can come up with a basis on which to do so."

The administration, following the Clinton-Netanyahu meeting, better understands Israel's need to ensure security for Hebron's Jewish residents before an IDF redeployment, an Israeli official said. But he stopped short of suggesting the US supports Jerusalem's view on the matter.

Ross also said he was encouraged by Monday's first meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian steering committee, and the formation of other subcommittees to discuss Hebron, security and easing the closure since Netanyahu met with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat last week.

"We've begun to see the development of the kinds of channels of communication and development of a working relationship that makes it possible to overcome differences," Ross said.

"It's a combination of the formal mechanisms and their own channels of communication, that have clearly progressed over the last couple of weeks, that I think gives us some hope that, in fact, they will find ways to move forward, and we will help them."

IDF to open second crossing from Gaza strip

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IN an effort to ease restrictions on Palestinian laborers, the IDF announced that it will open the Sufa crossing in the southern Gaza Strip to Palestinians who work in the Negev.

The army is to start operating the crossing tomorrow.

The army said the same restrictions are to apply as at the Erez crossing: Only married Palestinians over the age of 29 who have valid work permits would be allowed to enter, and then only after strict security checks. Crossing will be permitted only on foot.

Police, Border arrest 253 residents of territories in Israel illegally

Police arrested 253 residents of the territories staying in Israel illegally during raids on several places in Nazareth early yesterday morning.

Scores of police, border policemen, and detectives from the Ha'amakim district took part in the widespread operation.

All those arrested are expected to be sent back to the territories.

David Rudge

High Silver
Tel. 02-383762
We have the largest selection of exquisite silver designs, at the lowest prices. 20% off every item! V.A.T. tax refunded. 3 Ralbah St. in Geula, Jerusalem, across from the Gur Beit Midrash.
Listen to Arutz 7 - 711 & 1143 AM, 105 FM.

SEND A PERSONAL GREETING, MESSAGE OR SINGLES AD throughout the world via THE ISRAEL CONNECTION

Whether it's an anniversary greeting, a keep-in-touch to Danny out there somewhere, a genealogy search, or a singles ad seeking that special person, do it through the "Israel Connection" column, which appears at the beginning of every month in both the Friday national (Israeli) edition and in the International Edition. Your advertisement, (maximum 20 words) will appear once in both publications for only US\$60.

To place your "Israel Connection" advertisement (maximum 20 words including address):

Please send:

- * text of your advertisement, plus an address or telephone number for your replies if required, typed or printed clearly
- * payment of US\$60 or equivalent in NIS, payable by check (no Eurochecks) or credit card (US\$3 or NIS equivalent, for every additional word)
- * Payment in Shekels must include 17% VAT
- * your name, address (city, state, country, zip) typed or printed clearly, for our files.

Those living in U.S.A. or Canada, please mail the above to: The Israel Connection, The Jerusalem Post, 211 East 43rd St., Suite 601, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. Tel: 001-212-599-3666/Fax: 001-212-599-4743

Those living in other countries (including Israel), please mail to: The Israel Connection, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel Tel: 972-2-5315633/Fax: 972-2-5388408

NO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING ACCEPTED
ALL ADVERTISEMENTS MUST REACH US TWO WEEKS BEFORE PUBLICATION.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Sue Zohar-Deshch will speak on "A. Sustaining about Learning Disabilities."

The Jewish Agency for Israel
The Communications Division
extends sincerest condolences
to its acting director
Barbara Promislow
on the passing of her dear mother
FAY FISHMAN
in Winnipeg, Canada
and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family.



Tatiana Zelenskaya (right) is honored as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev in a ceremony in Jerusalem yesterday. "With my own eyes, I saw how Jews were murdered by the Nazis and so I decided I would save at least one Jew," said Zelenskaya, 76, from the Crimean peninsula, who adopted Luba Gudaiev (center), then a four-year-old Jewish girl. The two women recently came together to live in Israel.

(Text: Batsheva Tsour/Photo: Isaac Harari)

Aviv Gefen blasted for advising fans to leave Israel

AVIV Gefen, considered by many to be Israel's leading pop star and well known for his unorthodox views, dropped another bombshell yesterday when he advised his fans to leave the country.

"I recommend to the youth to leave the country. There is no democracy here. I am one of the only people who speaks out. That's my job," Gefen said in an interview, excerpts of which were published yesterday in *Ma'ariv*.

The full interview was given to the paper's youth magazine, *Ma'ariv Le'noar*, after its readers chose Gefen as "Personality of the Year" in a poll.

"It's time to pack bags and escape from Israel. I am being serious," Gefen added. "I am ashamed of this government and the prime minister and I am ashamed that an empty-headed and deficient person like [Binyamin] Netanyahu is my representative."

Gefen, who had held a public reconciliation with Yitzhak Rabin minutes before the late premier was slain during the peace rally in Tel Aviv last November, said that he was "afraid they would rub off the messages of mourning" left on the walls of what is now known as Rabin Square. Earlier, Gefen had made headlines for publicly attacking Rabin.

"To me, it is more important

BAT SHEVA TSOUR

that the [graffiti] remain than that the Western Wall remain," he was quoted as saying. "That is a living human cry on those walls. The dream of peace has been destroyed."

Asked about his feelings towards Judaism, Gefen replied: "I value Judaism but a Pink Floyd record turns me on more than the Western Wall. I believe we have created God. I am God, you are God, John Lennon is God. People make money out of God instead of honoring Him."

Defending the magazine's decision to print the interview, *Ma'ariv Le'noar* editor Avi Morgenstern said: "We absolutely dissociate ourselves from Gefen's views... but it was most important that the youth know what their idol thinks. We are totally opposed to his views and I wrote an editorial expressing this."

But the angry condemnations were swift to follow.

Morgenstern confirmed, in an Israel Radio interview, that there were parents who had cancelled their children's subscriptions to the magazine following yesterday's publication. He said that "thousands" of angry telephone calls had been received by the paper.

Deputy Education Minister

Moshe Peled called on the media not to provide someone with such views with a platform to reach the public. "It is inconceivable," Peled said, "that in a year when we are celebrating 100 years of Zionism, a Jew should call on the youth to leave Israel."

"I call on the youth to boycott Gefen," he added. "I have always believed that people who do not like Israel should just quietly leave. We can do without them," former education minister MK Amnon Rubinstein said.

He cautioned that Gefen might simply be seeking publicity. "We should not get over-excited about every stupid remark by one singer or another... because surveys carried out when I was minister showed that Israeli youth are very patriotic. The motivation to remain in this country and even to fight [in combat units] is higher than ever before," Rubinstein said.

In a phone-in survey conducted on Educational TV's *Erev Hadash* program yesterday, 70% of respondents said that they "believed that the mood of the general public was not expressed by Gefen" while 30% said Gefen had hit the nail on the head. The program said that thousands of calls had been received but did not give an exact number of participants.

J'm falls short in plan for building classrooms for Arabs

BILL HUTMAN

NEARLY two years after the Jerusalem municipality launched its much-heralded plan to build 180 new classrooms in eastern Jerusalem, about a dozen have been built, and only a handful more are slated to be built next year, the final year of the plan.

Arab schools, meanwhile, are fast becoming more crowded, and the municipality had to turn away pupils this year because of the lack of classrooms, telling parents to keep their children in private schools, according to municipal sources.

A senior municipal official described the city's implementation of the plan as a "complete failure."

In announcing the plan, Mayor Ehud Olmert originally stated that starting in 1995, some 60 classrooms would be built annually. Olmert has repeatedly spoken of "the three-year plan to build 180 classrooms," as proof he is committed to improving conditions in eastern Jerusalem.

Just last week, during a visit to eastern Jerusalem schools to mark the start of the school year, Olmert again spoke of the importance of the plan to build 180 classrooms, but failed to mention that few of the classrooms had been built or would be built soon.

An official statement released by the municipality during the

visit last week said "40 classrooms will be finished the end of this year."

According to a municipal report obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, only 10 new classrooms were completed under the plan - at schools in the Shufat and Beit Hanina neighborhoods. Work has begun on another 18 classrooms, while plans for an additional 24 were being prepared so that bids from contractors could be solicited.

Education Ministry deputy director general Shneur Simha confirmed that the ministry, together with the Treasury, approved funding for 180 classrooms in eastern Jerusalem, that were supposed to be completed by the end of 1997.

The municipality now, however, believes that the 180 classrooms will not be completed until 1998 at the earliest, and more likely not until 1999, said Nissim Solomon, head of the Jerusalem Education Authority.

Solomon said that budget constraints and difficulty in obtaining land for classrooms and new schools in eastern Jerusalem were holding up construction. Solomon stood by the official figures released last week, saying that 40 classrooms were being built or had

been completed. He added that tenders were either already published, or would be published soon, for an additional 36 classrooms.

"We are building classrooms, it is just not going as fast as we hoped," Solomon said.

But Simha, who is in charge of building and planning, confirmed that few of the classrooms had yet been built, and that projections he had received from the municipality indicated that only a few more would be built next year.

"The money is transferred to the municipality per project, and as soon as they are ready, we are prepared to turn over what they need," Simha said. It costs about NIS 460,000 to build a single classroom in Jerusalem, according to Simha.

"The schools in eastern Jerusalem are already very crowded. Most don't even have space left in their yards to put in additional pre-fab classrooms," to be used until conventional classrooms are built, Simha said.

Some 24,400 pupils attend public schools in eastern Jerusalem this year, and the number of pupils has been growing in recent years. Municipal sources said that when the three-year program began in 1995, there was a need for about 350 new classrooms, but today there is need for over 400.

Golan Development Corp. official questioned in fraud probe

BILL HUTMAN

A DIRECTOR of the Golan Development Corporation has been questioned as a suspect in the ongoing fraud investigation of the Investment Center, a police spokesman announced yesterday.

Meir Uri, company director-general, was interrogated for several hours Monday night, and then released on NIS 230,000 bail by a Katzin Magistrate's Court judge. Uri's passport was also taken away from him, as is routine in such cases. Uri is suspected of receiving thousands of shekels in bribes between 1989 and 1991, when he served as the projects manager at the Golan Development Corporation and later deputy director-general of the company, according to police.

Owners of the Mai Golan and the Masad corporations allegedly made payoffs to Uri, for his pushing their firms, and other projects they were connected with at the Investment Center, according to police.

Investigators uncovered the alleged wrongdoing during the ongoing Investment Center probe, and police emphasized it was just getting underway.

Acre Municipality workers strike

Protest non-payment of August wages

DAVID RUDGE

THE entire 600-member Acre Municipality workforce walked off the job yesterday morning in protest over non-payment of their August salaries.

"The situation is even worse than it would be under normal circumstances because the workers now find themselves without money on the eve of the holidays," said workers committee chairman Yossi Adar.

"From our point of view, we have done everything required of us to help in the municipality's recovery program and there should be no reason why we should suffer," said Adar. He noted that the total workforce had been cut by 110 in the past two years and reduced to its present level of 600 employees. Municipality director-general

Shmuel Katz said there had been some delays in transferring salaries to the accounts of all the workers.

"We are now in the process of putting all the money into the accounts of all the workers and I hope that this will be finalized and the strike will be over within a matter of hours," said Katz.

He stressed that the municipality had complied with all the demands of the Interior Ministry to cut overheads and increase income from the collection of local taxes (*arvona*).

"The problem is the NIS 40 million deficit that has accumulated over the years and unless this is consolidated or resolved as the ministry has promised we will continue to have serious liquidity problems," Katz added.

Court rejects malpractice suit against Meir Hospital

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Jerusalem District Court has rejected a NIS 11.5 million malpractice suit against Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital filed in the name of a mentally retarded child.

Kupat Holim Clalit, which owns Meir Hospital and voiced its satisfaction with the ruling, yesterday said the court last week rejected the parents' claims that the child suffered from cerebral palsy resulting from fetal distress during birth. The court stated that his mental retardation was due to other factors not

related to his delivery.

According to Judge Dr. A. Z. Ben-Zimra, the delivery was "not traumatic." During the hearing, the court proposed a compromise by which Clalit, without accepting any responsibility for the disability, would pay NIS 1m. However, the health fund's legal advisers rejected this, arguing that Meir doctors had done nothing wrong.

In the end, the plaintiffs were required to cover Clalit's NIS 10,000 in legal fees.

Pre-holiday mail volume up

DESPITE the popularity of faxes, e-mail, Internet and answering machines, Israelis are sending more mail during this pre-holiday period than last year, the Postal Authority said yesterday.

Some four million pieces of mail are being sent each day, compared to 3.5m. last September. During

ordinary, non-holiday periods, an average of 1.8m. pieces of mail are sent daily.

The Postal Authority's new director-general, Moshe Teri, learned this from authority chairman Amos Mar-Haim during a tour yesterday of the central sorting center in Tel Aviv. Judy Siegel

Ministry accused of failing to meet Triangle youngsters' special education needs

EVELYN GORDON

THE Education Ministry is refusing to provide special education for 11 Arab youngsters with serious hearing and/or vision impairments, the families' attorney charged in a letter to the Justice Ministry yesterday.

Attorney Hassan Jabareen, who recently led the Association for Civil Rights in Israel to set up a new organization focusing on civil rights in the Arab sector, charged in the letter that the Education Ministry's refusal violates the law, and asked the Justice Ministry to order it to change its policy. Otherwise, he said, he will petition the High Court of Justice next week.

The children, residents of the Triangle aged 6-7, were all referred to the Arab sector's one special education school, in Nazareth, by the Education Ministry's local placement committees. The school said it was willing in principle to take them, but could not do so without additional staff. It is already teaching some 120 children when it should only be teaching 80, the school said; it cannot stretch its resources any further.

When the ministry was informed of this, however, its response was that any children

who would not normally be in the northern school district should simply be put into ordinary schools, and in this way, the number of children in the special education school would be reduced, Jabareen said.

Jabareen argued that this response was illegal, as by law, the placement committees have sole authority to decide that a child needs special education, and to assign him to a particular school. The ministry has no right to ignore the committees' recommendations, Jabareen said.

The Education Ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Tichon plans panel to re-examine parliamentary immunity

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) intends to set up a committee to re-examine the entire principle of parliamentary immunity, he announced in a speech to the Jerusalem branch of the Israel Bar Association last night.

"To say the least, this law is outdated, and does not reflect the reality and the dynamic in which we live," he said. "There is good reason for the public debate over what the extent of an MK's immunity should be."

The law has already been amended 20 times since it was passed - including five amendments just in the past year - and these changes were not merely cosmetic, he said. They reflected "a desire to change the basic behavioral norms of the MKs and of the Knesset itself."

Despite this, however, there is room for a fundamental re-examination of the entire law, and he intends to set up a committee to conduct such a review, Tichon said. "The Knesset is not a sanctuary [for criminals]," he stressed.

Tichon also reiterated his denunciation of the recent attacks on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak in the Israeli press, stressing the importance of the High Court of Justice and the need to avoid "verbal violence."

However, he indicated that he sided with those who feel the court has been infringing too much on the Knesset's prerogatives in recent years. "Perhaps it is desirable to remember once again that the Knesset is the head of the various branches of state, as it expresses the desires of its citizens and reflects their free will," he said, citing a High Court ruling on the subject to back his statement. "The Knesset is not exempt from criticism, both public and judicial. It is subject to the constant scrutiny of the MKs themselves, of the press, and at times - and there are those who think too frequently - of the court."

Solar energy plant protects Negev pipeline

DAVID RUDGE

MEKOROT has established a solar energy plant in the Negev to produce electricity used in a process to help protect a water pipeline running between Shifta and Ketzior.

The project has already saved Mekorot money. Mekorot officials said it would have cost around NIS 500,000 for connection to the national grid and the construction of a sub-station at the site.

In comparison, the solar energy plant, which requires little maintenance and produces free electricity, cost around NIS 250,000 to build - half the price of connection to the national grid.

The officials said the electricity is used in a cathodic process which helps prevent corrosion of water pipelines and any bursts.

HEVRAT HA'OVDIM L.T.D

Hevrat Ha'ovdim announces that it is considering selling the HAARGAZ ENTERPRISES L.T.D. as an ongoing concern, while at the same time protecting the rights of the workers.

All parties interested in participating in this sale should apply to Hevrat Ha'ovdim through advocate Moshe Porath, 10 Carlebach St., P.O. BOX 20045, Tel-Aviv 67132.

The last date for the aforesaid application is October 11, 1998.

To remove any doubt, it is emphasized that this notice is not an invitation to the public to purchase Hevrat Ha'ovdim holdings, in whole or in part, nor does it represent an obligation by Hevrat Ha'ovdim to sell its holdings. The purchasers, if at all, will be selected on the basis of clarifications and negotiations which will be held by Hevrat Ha'ovdim with whomever it desires, at its sole discretion, if it indeed decides to sell its holdings.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim reserves the right to extend the final date for additional applications at its sole discretion.

THE JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, IBA

► SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT No. 1 ► CHILDREN & FAMILY Concert No. 1

David Shallon Conductor
Christian Tetzlaff Soloist

BERG Violin Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No. 9

Wed, 16.10 / Series A
Thur, 17.10 / Series B
8.00 PM, Henry Crown Hall

"THE MAGIC FLUTE"
Opera by Mozart

Pablo Ariel Staging
Rashi Levaot Presenter & Conductor

with the participation of students from f the Rubin Academy of Music, Tel Aviv, directed by Tamar Rachum

► The Orchestra Box Office Tel: 5611498-9 Sun-Thur 16-20 Fri 10-13

High Silver

SEND A PER...
GREETING...
OR SIMILES...

What the world...
AEL CONNECT

Saddam offers amnesty in bid to keep Kurds at home

TENS of thousands of Kurds fled into the rugged mountains bordering Iran, but when word spread that Saddam Hussein's troops had not entered this city, some reversed their flight and returned home yesterday.

Up to 300,000 Kurds may have left after a Kurdish faction backed by Saddam captured the northeastern city Monday night, UN officials said. But Sulaymaniyah was peaceful yesterday, encouraging refugees to trek back home on trucks, in taxis and on foot.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party celebrated its sweeping victory in northern Iraq with a parade in the streets Tuesday, but Iraqi troops were nowhere in sight.

KDP fighters carrying AK-47 rifles rode through the streets on the back of pickup trucks decorated with yellow flags and streamers.

Saddam, meanwhile, sought to keep the refugees at home, declaring a general amnesty for all Kurds and lifting barriers between Iraq and the semi-autonomous Kurdish areas that have been in place since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

The full ramifications of the announcement were not immediately clear. But the Kurdish "safe haven," established by the US-led forces

BRIAN MURPHY
SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq

five years ago, has effectively collapsed, and Saddam was wasting no time in reasserting his authority over the north.

About 30 kilometers northeast of Sulaymaniyah, KDP fighters looted everything they could carry from the headquarters of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Soldiers and villagers towed away air conditioners, wire, pipes and even light bulbs. One old man stumbled away with three fluorescent light tubes, a large ceramic urn and a toilet seat.

In Sulaymaniyah, a few top members of the PUK chose to remain. "I don't think we're in any danger, only Talabani and about 10 other important PUK members are the ones whose lives are at risk," said Majid Haji Ahmed, a senior member of the PUK council in Sulaymaniyah. "It's better than being a refugee."

But many Kurds showed little faith in Saddam after so many harsh crackdowns directed at them in the past.

In neighboring Iran, meanwhile, the govern-

ment said 200,000 refugees were massed at its border and it gave conflicting signals about whether they would be allowed in.

Ahmad Hosseini, an Interior Ministry official in Tehran, told a news conference that the refugees would be kept out "unless their lives are threatened by gunfire or attacks."

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammed Mohammadi said Iran was "ready to accept the refugees."

Some 2,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees, traveling on foot and crammed onto vehicles, crossed in Iran on Monday, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

In Baghdad, Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf announced the amnesty on state television, saying the only people excluded were those who committed murder, rape or stole state property.

The statement did not give details on the new rules that would apply to the northern Kurdish region.

But it was interpreted to mean that Iraq will no longer regard the north as a separate region, and people will be able to travel and trade freely without obtaining any special documents. (AP)

Yeltsin hands powers to Chernomyrdin, but keeps nuclear trigger

ANATOLY VERBIN
MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin, preparing for heart bypass surgery, has handed his prime minister partial control of several top ministries but kept the nuclear "red button," the Kremlin said yesterday.

Yeltsin's order appeared designed partly to curb the ambitions of Alexander Lebed, his national security adviser, who had sought overall charge of key "power ministries."

Presidential press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky said defense, interior and other ministries who usually report directly to the president would coordinate their activities with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin while Yeltsin is on holiday.

He told Russian news agencies that Chernomyrdin would be able, if necessary, to summon the newly

formed Defense Council which comprises top ministers and security supremo Lebed.

Yeltsin, 65, announced in a television interview last week that he would undergo heart surgery at the end of the month.

Speculation was rife on whether he would pass authority to Chernomyrdin, his constitutional deputy.

Yeltsin has officially been on holiday since August 26 and the Kremlin has not announced when his vacation will end.

"President Boris Yeltsin, for the duration of his holiday, has ordered the heads of the power ministries to coordinate with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin all questions that

require a decision by the head of state," Itar-Tass news agency quoted Yastrzhembsky as saying.

They should also keep Yeltsin regularly informed on the matters in their ministries, Yastrzhembsky said.

Interfax news agency quoted him as saying the nuclear "red button" would stay under the control of the Russian leader. It could be activated only by a joint action of the president, the defense minister and the chief-of-staff of the army.

Last year, when Yeltsin was in the hospital after a heart attack, Chernomyrdin said he was in control of the power ministries but was later forced to tone down his remarks.

This time he appeared to be taking no chances, playing down his extra responsibilities in comments to Tass and Interfax. (Reuters)

Lebanese PM assured of majority in parliament

BEIRUT - Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and his allies were assured a majority in the new Parliament as official results came in from elections in southern Lebanon.

Hariri and his partners will now have at least 68 seats in the 128 seat legislature, according to results announced late Monday.

Sunday's election in the south was the fourth stage of the five-phase balloting to choose the half-Christian, half-Muslim parliament. The last round, in eastern Lebanon, is slated for Sunday.

Like the outgoing legislature, the new Parliament is dominated by pro-Syrian lawmakers. Syria, which maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon, is the main power broker in the country.

Elected in Sunday's vote were all 21 members of the joint ticket agreed to by the two main Shi'ite Muslim factions, Amal, a Syrian-backed moderate group, and Hizbollah.

Number of people in Japan over 100 tops 7,000

TOKYO (AP) - Japan, which leads the world in life expectancy, now has more than 7,000 centenarians, the government said yesterday.

There will be 7,373 Japanese 100 years or older at the end of September, up 955 people than a year earlier, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. Of those who have lived a century, 80 per-

cent are women, it said.

A list of the centenarians living in Japan was announced by the ministry prior to Respect for the Aged Day, a national holiday in Japan, which falls on September 15.

Japanese have the world's longest life expectancy - 83 years for women and 77 years for men, according to the ministry.



Ninety-six-year-old Emilie (left) and 97-year-old Otto Kahn of Neustadt am Rennsteig, Germany, prepare to celebrate their 75th anniversary, which falls today. They have four children, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. (AP)

Official: Russia steps up sales of arms to developing countries

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia has pushed aggressively to boost arms sales to the developing world, moving to consolidate its lead over the United States, a newspaper reported yesterday.

As of now, Moscow has signed contracts for arms sales totaling \$8 billion and hopes to reach \$10 billion by the end of the year, Maj. Gen. Alexander Kotyolkin, the head of the Russian arms trading monopoly Rosvoortzheniye, told the daily *Kommersant* newspaper.

Russia now exports weapons to 51 countries, with India, China, Malaysia, Kuwait, Cyprus and Turkey taking the lead, the newspaper said.

For the first time since the Soviet

collapse, Russia last year surpassed the US in weapons exports to developing countries, agreeing to sell about \$6 billion worth of weapons, up from \$3.7 billion in 1994, according to the US Congressional Research Service's report released last month.

New US contracts for arms sales dropped to \$3.8 billion in 1995 from \$6.2 billion the previous year. Not all deals are carried out, and new orders often take several years to fill. The United States was still far ahead in actual deliveries of arms last year - \$9.5 billion worth to Russia's \$2.4 billion.

Kommersant said Russia hopes to receive \$3.5 billion to 3.6 billion from arm sales this year.

Tension rises in divided Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) - Tension between the Greek and Turkish sectors of this war-divided Mediterranean island nation rose anew yesterday, with authorities on both sides trading recriminations over recent killings.

A Cyprus government spokesman said yesterday that an agriculture minister in the island's breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic was one of the killers of a Greek Cypriot protester shot dead last month while attempting to haul down a Turkish flag.

He identified him as Kennan Akin, 43, and said he was among an estimated 35,000 settlers brought from mainland Turkey following the 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

The charge was made as Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller arrived on the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus to attend the funeral of a Turkish Cypriot soldier killed on Sunday while on sentry duty on the line dividing the island since 1974.

Demjanjuk defense asks end of citizenship revocation

CLEVELAND (AP) - Attorneys for John Demjanjuk have requested dismissal of the government's civil case that resulted in his loss of citizenship in 1981.

Federal public defenders Michael Dane and Debra Hughes made the request in a legal brief filed Monday.

Dane and Hughes contend the ruling that stripped Demjanjuk of his citizenship "was undeniably obtained as a result of litigation during which the government committed fraud on the court."

At a hearing in May before US District Judge Paul Matia, the defense identified a possible eyewitness, Jakob Reimer, who was a paymaster at the Trawniki guard training camp in Poland where an identification card has Demjanjuk posted.

In the brief, the defense lawyers say Reimer could have cast doubt on Demjanjuk's Trawniki identification card and that the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations knew about Reimer in 1980.

John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman, said he could not comment on the defense brief.

Aftereffects of blizzard of '96 show up in delivery rooms

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - There was a lot more going on during the Blizzard of '96 in the northeastern United States than shoveling driveways and playing board games.

Nine months after the huge snowstorm socked the region, Pennsylvania and New Jersey delivery rooms are preparing for a deluge of Blizzard Babies.

"It doesn't take rocket science, it just takes a little arithmetic," the administrator of Bryn Mawr Hospital, Nancy Farrington, said Friday. "Instead of playing in the snow, people were playing in their beds."

Hospitals don't know exactly how many women will be giving birth this month and next. But administrators at hospitals in both states say they are taking their cue from projected due dates - which are up as much as 50 percent over last year.

Dr. Richard Krauss, an obstetrician who delivers babies at Pennsylvania Hospital, said he is expecting 20 births this month. He usually has 10 or 12.

New Jersey doctor Wendy Martinez said that for the first time ever, her practice had to add a second birthing class for new mothers.

The topic of conversation on the first day of class? "Everyone was asking everyone else, 'So what day of the storm did you do it on?'" Martinez said. "There was the snow, a lot of people sitting around fires in a fireplace, maybe a glass of wine, so the setting was... tranquil."

Thirty years ago, the birth rate jumped off the charts at New York-area hospitals - nine months after the great blackout of November 9, 1965.

Auto Guard®

Your missing piece of Car Protection for your ultimate Peace of Mind

Special offer for Jerusalem Post readers

Latest reports on car thefts -

"Most alarms can be neutralised by electronic devices in seconds"

U.S. professional Police authorities (in the U.S.A.) have reached these conclusions: **Electronic devices are not enough!!**

Recommendation: Electronic device plus actual wheel locking device.

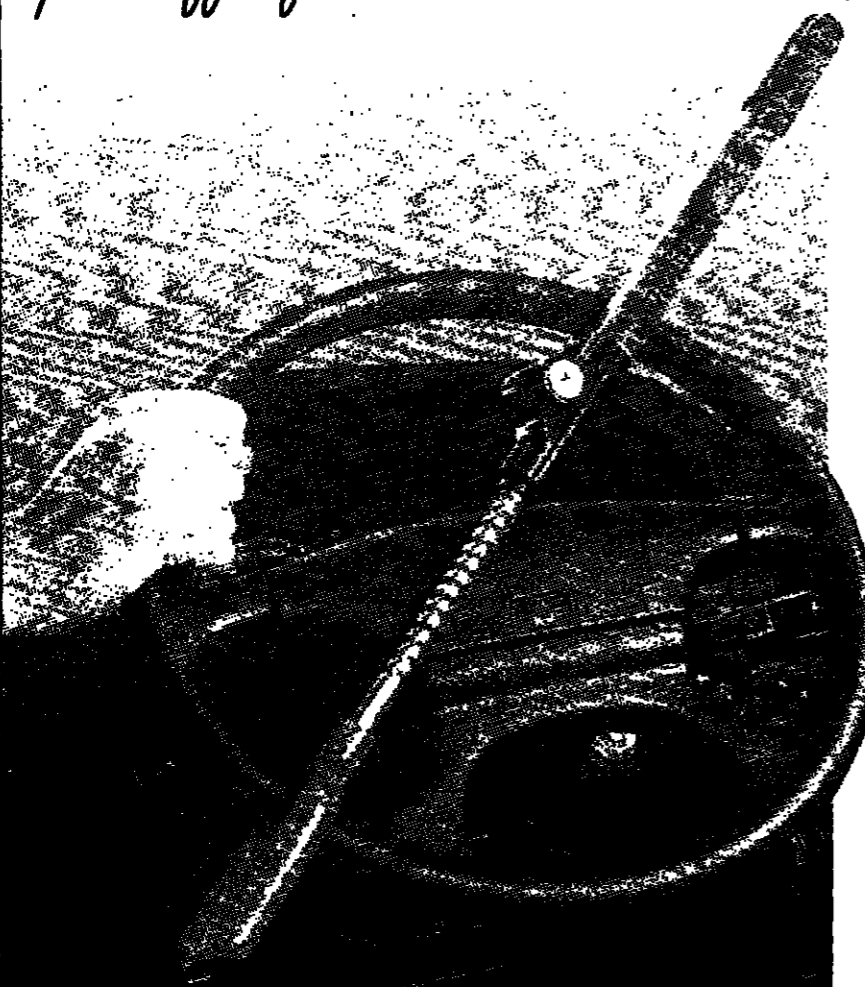
The answer is **Auto Guard**. The steering locking device that enjoys great success in the U.S.A. Now available in Israel at only **149 NIS**.

Auto Guard. The steering lock without installation and easy to use. Made of reinforced iron. Easy to see from outside to dissuade potential thieves.

Do not rely on anything else.

Only **Auto Guard** will ensure against the risk of car thefts.

Lock up with **Auto Guard** for that complete car protection.



For orders please call
Atlas Ltd.,
51 Tchlenov St., Tel Aviv 66048
P.O.B. 35138 Tel Aviv 61351
Tel. 03-6888407
Fax. 03-6882192
Toll Free 177 022 3585
Allow 14 days delivery

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Product can be returned within
30 days if undamaged and in the original packaging

NIS 149
NIS 15 delivery

My check is enclosed Debit my credit card Amx. Visa Diners Isracard

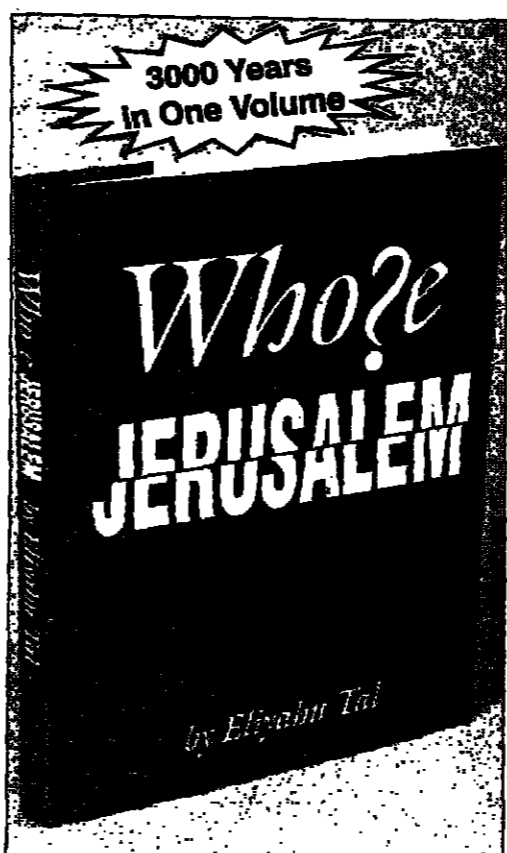
Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Tel. _____ Date _____

Address _____

Signature _____ ID No. _____

All You Should Know About Jerusalem



In Whose Jerusalem Elyahu Tal boldly tackles the controversial issue of Jerusalem and presents the many facets of its history, religion, demography, archeology, tourism, education, culture and health. All in all, an extensive 330-page source book with a compendium of 266 quotations and a chronology of 375 dates.

Hardcover, richly illustrated deluxe edition.

"A veritable treasure-trove of facts and figures including some untold stories. No book like this on the market." Teddy Koller.

"Jerusalem explored and expounded from almost every possible angle." Mayor Ehud Olmert.

"A must read for every Christian." Sister Dr. Rose Thering.

JP Price NIS 99.00 plus delivery costs

To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, Tel. 02-241282.

Please send/deliver Whose Jerusalem. Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post or credit-card details for:

NIS 108.00 inc. postage
 NIS 115.00 for door-to-door delivery
 NIS 138.00 for overseas air mail

Visa Isracard Diners

CC No. _____ Exp. _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Code _____
Tel. (day) _____ ID No. _____
Signature _____

*Please list gift-recipients' names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper.

Arab sovereignty overcomes antagonism toward Saddam

DANIEL J. CHALFEN and news agencies

THE latest US attacks on Iraq have left Gulf states trying to balance support for their powerful guardian against the desire to preserve the sovereignty of a fellow Arab country, diplomats said on Monday.

During the Gulf war, Iraq was almost unanimously accepted as "the enemy." But as Arab reactions to the US strikes and Turkey's intended establishment of a buffer zone in northern Iraq were announced, the various axis of intra-Arab and Arab-US relations are, again, being tested.

Since the Gulf War, some Gulf states have adopted a softer line on Iraq. Hawkeish Kuwait and Saudi Arabia refuse any direct contact with the Iraqi leader, but Qatar and Oman both have resident Iraqi ambassadors.

Last year, UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Nahayan said the time had come to reconcile with Baghdad, urging UN sanctions be lifted to ease the Iraqis' suffering.

The chairman of a two-day meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - part of the US-led coalition that ended Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait - said Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates (UAE) differed with the US over the strikes and were discussing the issue with Washington.

There are no disagreements but there are differences in opinion, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef bin Alawi bin Abdullah said after the meeting ended on Sunday.

That said, "the fact they did not make any comment [about the US strikes] reflects partly the desire for GCC unity and partly the desire to maintain good relations with the US and other Western allies," a Western diplomat in Abu Dhabi said.

Meanwhile, Turkey's plan to set up a buffer zone in northern Iraq has served to bring Arab states together in support of Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This, at least, shows that pan-Arab solidarity and resentment of non-Arab interference in the region can transcend the antagonism between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and other Arab leaders. It

can also entice even those Arab governments which joined the US-led military campaign to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991 into a unified voice, insisting that they cannot accept a foreign buffer zone in an Arab country.

As they rallied in support of Kuwaiti sovereignty in 1990, they should now similarly defend Iraqi sovereignty against Turkish encroachments.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a pillar of Arab opposition to Saddam during the Kuwaiti crisis, said in remarks published on Monday that partitioning Iraq or annexing Iraqi territory would be grave.

"Iraq is an Arab state, the survival and unity of which we are intent on preserving," he told the ruling party newspaper *Maya*. "Partitioning Iraq would create a dangerous situation in the whole region."

According to an Abu Dhabi-based Western diplomat, "the Gulf states, especially the UAE, don't want to see the disintegration of Iraq, because they need Iraq to counter Iran. They fear Iran."

Syria, Algeria and the six GCC states have expressed reservations about the buffer zone, which Ankara says would stop Turkish Kurds from using the area as a base for attacks on Turkish forces. Syria, which has a long-standing territorial dispute with Turkey, has been especially vehement about Turkish plans for northern Iraq, seen in Damascus as an encircling tactic.

A notable exception to the opposition is Jordan, which has refrained from overt criticism of the plan and has been developing ties with Turkey, apparently as a bulwark against Syria.

Arab opposition reflects suspicion about Turkish policy in the region, especially in light of the defense cooperation agreement which Turkey and Israel signed this year.

Diplomats say Arab governments are increasingly concerned that countries like Israel, Turkey and the US are deciding the future of the region without consulting them, to the long-term detriment of the Arabs as a single nation.

Labor's Mashov circle backs recognition of Palestinian state

BACKGROUND PINHAS INBARI

THE Mashov circle, a group of young, up-and-coming Labor leaders, earlier this week adopted the Beilin-Abu Mazen non-paper, which is based on the principle of recognizing the Palestinian state in return for keeping united Jerusalem under Israeli rule.

The head of the Mashov circle, Yossi Beilin, decided to make this non-paper part of the circle's platform in the hopes it would ultimately become the Labor party platform.

Beilin did not reveal the exact text of the non-paper, but on Sunday he told his fellow Mashov members the principles of the document.

However, there are doubts whether the PLO really supported the understandings between Abu Mazen and Beilin. The non-paper apparently covered many other issues related to the final settlement.

For example, the Palestinian state would be demilitarized.

The Palestinians wanted close relations with Jordan, even agreeing to a single diplomatic representative in each country around the world. However, the Jordanians refused to accept it, Beilin noted.

Regarding the refugee problem, Beilin said there are suggestions to abolish the UN Relief and Works Agency and to establish another institution under Swedish supervision to take care of the refugees.

As for Jerusalem, the Palestinian capital would be located in Al-Quds, namely those parts of greater Jerusalem which are outside the municipal borders of Israeli Jerusalem, but which are considered by the Palestinians to be part of the city. They will not recognize Israeli rule in eastern Jerusalem, but will respect the principle of an open city. The Temple Mount will become extraterritorial; the PA and Jordan will establish a committee to coordinate issues related to it.

Apart from the Al-Quds understanding, there is no evidence of PLO support for the non-paper. To the contrary, some of the PLO's latest measures indicate it rejected the non-paper.

Here we may perceive a repetition of what happened in Oslo: the agreements were achieved by one wing of the Palestinians, only to be actually canceled by the PLO itself once they were signed. The fact that the names of the academics who helped in phrasing the document were not known, besides Abu Mazen, is evidence that the PLO did not approve it.

The ideas incorporated in the non-paper resemble notions presented by Palestinian scholars currently living in London, such as Ahmad Khalidi and Yazid Sayegh,

and it is not a great surprise that they are the incognito scholars behind the non-paper.

They have already previously participated in seminars, described as a secret channel, that produced recommendations on several issues, which were rejected by the PLO.

As for the current developments, we can now better understand the timing of the confrontation between the PA and Jordan over the nominations for the Waik administration on the Temple Mount.

The PA recently decided to nominate new Waik officials without consulting Jordan. It actually removed the Jordanian officials, challenging the current situation that the Waik on the Temple Mount is part of the Jordanian Waik Ministry in Amman.

This may be understood as an actual rejection of the non-paper agreement of the necessity to have a PLO-Jordan coordination on Al-

Quds issues.

In addition, Arafat's declarations in the Balata refugee camp last week that he supports the continuation of UNRWA until the fulfillment of the right of return can now be better understood as a rejection of the non-paper proposal to establish a new Swedish-sponsored refugee organization. And the issue of demilitarization of the territories is a well-known dispute among the Palestinians, with some insisting on the right of a regular army rather than only a police force.

The PLO appears to support only the Al-Quds aspect of the proposal, as steps have already been taken to move offices from eastern Jerusalem proper to Abu Dis.

It should also be noted that prior to the meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and PA chairman Yasser Arafat, Abu Mazen had ordered some Orient House offices moved to Abu Dis.

Gulf tensions seen as bonus for arms makers

MICHAEL GEORGY

THE US strikes against Iraq will stoke the tension that has made the Gulf a multi-billion dollar arms bazaar, Western diplomats and industry executives said on Monday.

"It may sound mercenary, but when you cut it down to the bone, security is a major concern for Gulf states and that means they will need weapons," an executive of a major US arms company said of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's sweep into northern Iraq.

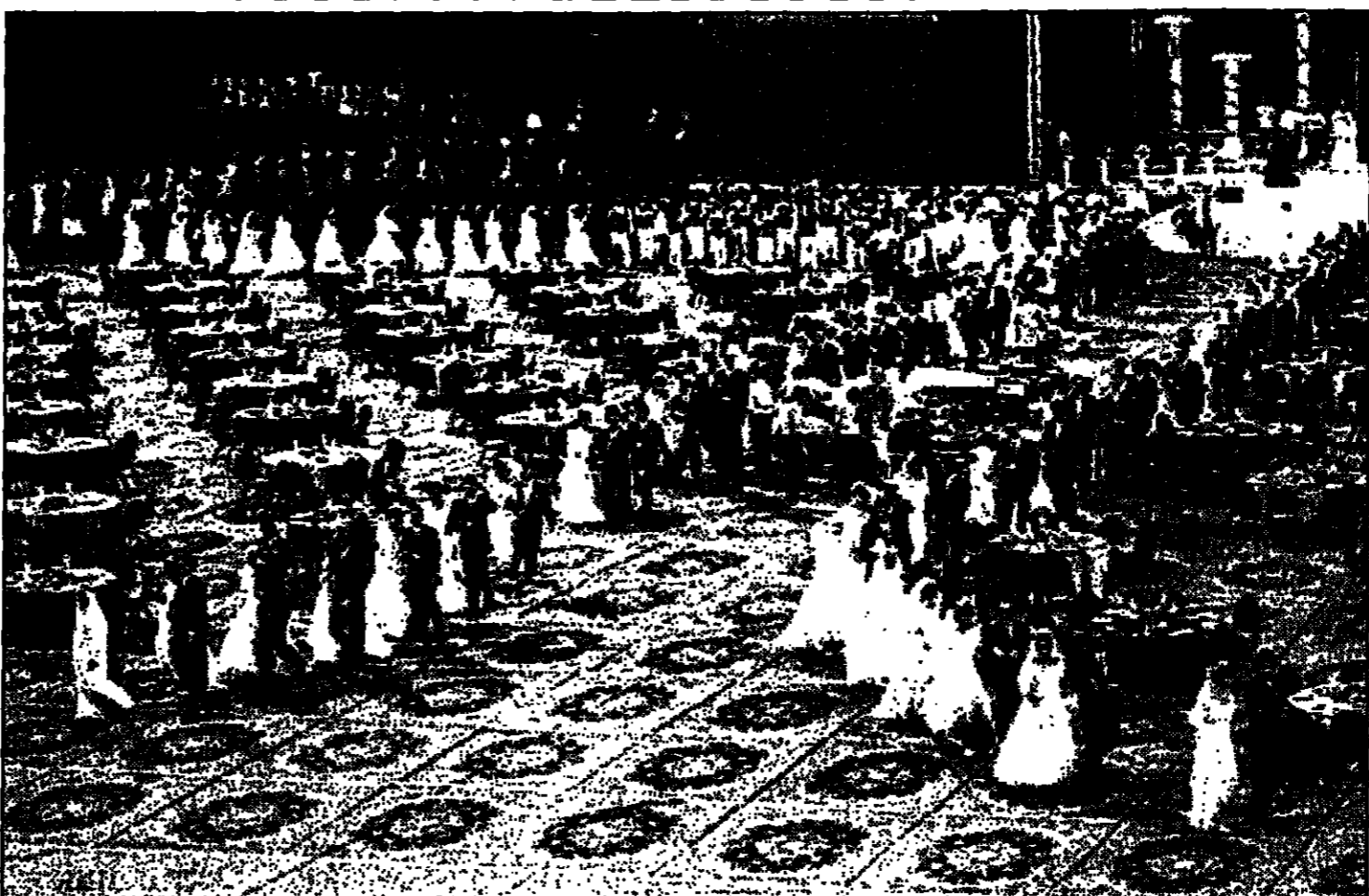
The Iraqi leader's defiant speech on state television, wearing a field marshal's uniform, after Washington retaliated last week with cruise missile attacks, was a reminder of the continuing tension in the region. Industry executives said this latest conflict would not trigger an arms-buying spree, but tension means long-term gains for Western arms makers seeking to sell to Gulf states that rely on US protection from Iraq and Iran.

"This does not mean a windfall. But over the long term, the Gulf states will be concerned with security," said the executive.

Gulf states have stressed the need to preserve Iraq's sovereignty and territorial unity but diplomats say hawkish Saudi Arabia and Kuwait do not want Saddam to think he can act with impunity. Armed with vast oil wealth, Gulf Arab states haunted by memories of Iraq's lightning invasion of Kuwait in 1990 are bristling with high-tech weapons, with more deals on the horizon.

"These types of tensions will continue to make the Gulf a valuable market in the future," said a Western diplomat in the United Arab Emirates, which has emerged as a major player in the international arms market.

(Reuters)



About 400 couples walk into Cairo stadium for a mass wedding ceremony, which was attended by some 20,000 relatives. (Reuters)

Egyptians join in mass wedding for 400 couples

JONATHAN WRIGHT

SOME 20,000 Egyptians clapped and danced to oriental music in a Cairo hockey stadium on Friday night at a state-sponsored wedding reception for 400 couples.

The party was the brainchild of sports supremo Abdel Moneim Emara, who said he wanted to spare them the expense of private wedding receptions which can cost thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars.

Grooms in dark suits and brides in traditional white wedding dresses arrived in procession, to whistles and ululations from relatives packed into grandstands decorated with pink and white satin drapes and bunches of balloons.

Suzanne, the wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, was the guest of honor at the televised occasion. Emara's Supreme Council for Sport and Youth had advertised the free event on television three months ago and accepted those who put in their applications first. Couples said the party was better than anything they could have organized themselves - especially the fireworks, the laser light show and the quality of the singers.

"It was a really excellent idea and they should repeat it every year," said Khaled Mohamed, an agricultural engineer from Alexandria. "It's much more fun

this way," said Nagah al-Sayyed, an Arabic teacher from the Nile Delta. "We've made lots of new friends and we're having the time of our lives."

Most of the couples were junior public-sector employees who live on annual salaries of less than 300 pounds.

But, perhaps in deference to a puritanical trend in Egyptian society, the organizers missed out one ingredient essential to the traditional wedding. There was no belly dancer.

(Reuters)

Armed with vast oil wealth, Gulf Arab states haunted by memories of Iraq's lightning invasion of Kuwait in 1990 are bristling with high-tech weapons, with more deals on the horizon.

"These types of tensions will continue to make the Gulf a valuable market in the future," said a Western diplomat in the United Arab Emirates, which has emerged as a major player in the international arms market.

(Reuters)

Kurds jeopardize American aid

SUNA ERDEM

THE story goes, that back in 1991 British Prime Minister John Major drew a sketch of the US-led Operation Provide Comfort (OPC). Now, turmoil in northern Iraq has raised questions over whether it's time to redraw the blueprint for the Turkey-based air operation shielding rebel Kurds from Saddam Hussein.

"Its reason for existence is being questioned. It has not turned out as efficient as hoped... I guess nobody thought the Kurds would be such fools," popular columnist Mehmet Ali Birand, who specializes in foreign relations, told Reuters.

In taking the main Kurdish city of Irbil from a rival faction on August 31, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) militia broke the biggest taboo and allied with Saddam - the very reason for OPC.

"OPC has completely lost its function. It must rethink itself," said columnist Bilal Cetin. "The Iraq thing is a mess." It's unclear how OPC - set up following the Gulf war - could be changed.

Turkey has become increasingly strident in its demands to have OPC brought more under Ankara's control. It charges the force's presence, creates an authority gap and allows separatist Kurds to use northern Iraq as a springboard to attack Turkey.

Ankara has said it wants to create a security zone in northern Iraq to curb rebel Turkish Kurd activity in the region, which it says increased thanks to OPC and the latest fighting.

After the Gulf War, Saddam's troops brutally put down a Kurdish uprising, strafing the rebels by air and forcing them to flee to Turkey and Iran and causing an outcry in the West. Five years on, nobody is seriously suggesting the combined US, British, French and Turkish force be folded, but no one has specified how it could be adapted to the latest situation.

"We have to wait and see what happens on the ground," said a Western diplomat, who denied that plans were afoot to alter the structure of the operation. "We will have to think very carefully about where we go from here, but we have plenty of time to see until the mandate is up for renewal in December."

Birand said the latest events showed if anything that OPC needed to stay: "At least it offers some kind of military presence in the north... But it must be made more effective." He said Washington may want ground troops to become part of OPC, and said the allies would be discussing whether OPC jets should be mandated to strike if Saddam repeated his foray into the north. He said the force could mould into something designed to keep a hold on Saddam rather than just protect the Kurds.

But it is questionable whether the Turks would accept - or the French, who withheld support for missile strikes Washington launched against Iraq in reaction to Saddam's intervention.

Western policy will also depend on whether KDP chief Massoud Barzani continues to favour Saddam as an ally over rival Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

After a safe haven was created for Kurds in northern Iraq, the pesmerga guerrillas of Barzani and Talabani continued to fight each other sporadically, despite sharing power after the first Kurdish parliament elections in 1992, through countless cease-fires and peace talks, particularly in the past two years. (Reuters)

Islamic militants kill 30 in Algeria

SUSPECTED Moslem militants in Algeria killed 30 people and kidnapped five women in two attacks on buses last week, an Arabic-language newspaper reported Monday.

The London-based daily *Al-Hayat* said militants attacked a bus after setting up a fake police barricade Wednesday on a highway near the border with Tunisia. Several men boarded the bus and forced six women and all the men between ages 18 and 30 to get off. *Al-Hayat* said, quoting "information from inside Algeria."

The bodies of 18 people, including one of the women, were later found farther down the road, the newspaper said. The other five women were apparently abducted to nearby mountains, about 20 kilometers south of the border town of Batna.

In another incident, the newspaper said 12 people were killed Friday in a similar ambush in Ghardaya, southeast of Algiers. Details on both attacks were sketchy.

Last month, *Al-Hayat* reported that militants posing as policemen shot and hacked to death at least 63 people in what would have been some of the worst bloodshed in the four-year civil war. The newspaper said that attack was carried out by more than 100 Moslem militants armed with rifles, daggers and axes who stormed two buses after setting up fake police barricades.

The Algerian government called the report "totally unfounded." *Al-Hayat*, a popular and respected newspaper, stood by the report, which it attributed to reliable sources.

Given poor communications in Algeria, it was impossible to independently confirm the latest reports.

More than 60,000 people have been killed since the start of the insurgency in January 1992, when the army-backed government canceled legislative elections that Islamic fundamentalist candidates were poised to win. (AP)

Dogs help West's 'cultural invasion'

WALKING dogs in public is a sign of a "Western cultural invasion" and police should stop it, an Iranian newspaper has suggested.

"Unfortunately, some identity-less young people, to show off, take dogs into the streets imitating foreigners," the *Jomhuri Eslami* daily quoted a shopowner as saying. "Police should prevent this which is a form of cultural invasion."

The daily published a picture of a young woman window-shopper carrying a dog. People carrying dogs "disturb pedestrians, especially women and children," it said.

It told readers it was necessary to stay away from dogs because Islam considers the animals unclean. (Reuters)

SYRIA AND ISRAEL - From War to Peace-making

Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp.

JP Price NIS 149 plus NIS 6 p & h in Israel

To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000 Please send me Syria and Israel by Moshe Ma'oz. Enclosed is my check for NIS 155 payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details: VISA ISRACARD DINERS AMEX

Eye on the Media advertisement for David Bar-Illan. Includes contact information for the Jerusalem Post and details about the book's price and availability.

THE JERUSALEM POST

DLER Chairman, Board of Directors ALEVY, President & Publisher

Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON

EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem 91000

JEFF BARAK, Managing Editor ALBC ISRAEL, Associate Editor, Copy DAN ZENBERG, News Editor DAVID BRINN, Night Editor SAM ORBAUM, Features Editor THOMAS O'DWYER, Foreign Editor JUDY MONTAGU, Op-Ed Editor AMOTZ ASA-EL, Business Editor

AVI GOLAN, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Advertising PAUL STASZEWSKI, CPA, Vice President, Finance YOSHI HORN, Vice President, Production STANLEY SCHRAGER, Circulation Manager BENZION MILLER, Tel Aviv Office Manager

A non-paper non-starter

SYRIA'S rejection of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's offer to restart direct Syrian-Israeli negotiations - with no preconditions - as expressed yesterday in the official Syrian paper al-Baath, is disappointing, as is the Syrian suggestion that the US twist Israel's arm to accept Syria's conditions.

This is the normative model of negotiating, with the subsequent give-and-take of bargaining bringing the two parties to an agreed point somewhere in between their opening positions.

The Syrian leadership is clearly disappointed that Israel will not agree to resume negotiations from the point at which they were broken off prior to the elections, and is especially annoyed at Netanyahu's rejection of the understandings reached between Israeli and Syrian negotiators in May and June of 1995.

Syria's suggestion that the US "return Netanyahu to his natural size," and force Israel to accept Syrian positions prior to negotiations, is insulting and counterproductive. It harkens back to the early Seventies, when Arab nations waited for the US "to deliver Israel," a position which only resulted in deadlock and confrontation.

Those understandings were attained between representatives of the Labor government and Syria, and were explicitly defined as a "non-paper." Labor MK Yossi Beilin, when asked recently to explain the term non-paper (in reference to the Abu Mazen-Beilin non-paper on permanent status arrangements for the West Bank), provided a very succinct definition: It is a document which does not officially exist, because either party retains the right to deny that it was ever drawn up in the first place.

The history of successful Israeli-Arab negotiating breakthroughs - from Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, through the secret Oslo dialogues and the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, all of which occurred without Washington's intervention and sometimes even caught it by surprise - should have put paid to this conception long ago. The US cannot force either Syrian or Israeli actions and decisions. At best it can serve as a facilitator of meetings, give its blessings to understandings attained and provide financial backing. The sooner this is accepted by all parties involved, the better.

In contrast to the Oslo agreements, which were formally signed by Israel's highest-ranking representatives and are therefore rightly recognized by Netanyahu as binding on Israel and the PLO, the present government has every right to reject any previous understandings or promises made by its predecessor regarding the negotiations with Syria. Indeed, there are indications that Israeli negotiators were willing in the past to formalize the level of understandings with the Syrians beyond that of a non-paper, but Syria demurred. It did this knowing full well that Israel's elections were approaching and that a different government might be elected. Now Damascus must deal with the consequences of its past decisions.

A majority of Israelis are currently opposed to a pullback on the Golan Heights, and the IDF has on more than one occasion expressed nervousness at the prospect of giving up on the strategic advantages afforded by control of the Golan. Israel's suggestion that an arrangement in Lebanon be worked out first - reminiscent of the Oslo agreement's emphasis on an interim agreement as a confidence-building measure prior to final-status talks - is therefore quite logical.

A careful reading of Netanyahu's statements in Washington regarding the renewal of Israeli-Syrian negotiations reveals a reasonable Israeli position. Israel has in fact not ruled out any territorial compromise on the Golan Heights; it has simply insisted that, as in the Madrid talks, it will not agree to Syria's demand that Israel commit itself to a full withdrawal before negotiations even begin, a demand which it rightly regards as a prior condition. As Netanyahu stated, Israel reserves the right to start talks with its maximalist positions, just as Syria will open with its farthest-reaching demands.

This is especially true given the absurdity of an Arab rejection of Israel's offer to withdraw its troops from an Arab country. A Lebanese arrangement ending the violence on the northern border would go a long way towards increasing Israeli public confidence in negotiating with Syria. The Syrian rejection of the "Lebanon first" proposal again raises the old suspicion that Syria is more interested in being courted by the US to return to the negotiating table than in making progress towards a real peace agreement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HALACHIC ERROR

Sir, - As reported in The Jerusalem Post of August 16, it seems that the haredi leadership has made a serious halachic error in its kulturkampf with the Supreme Court.

When Dudu Zilbershlag, spokesman for the haredi neighborhoods around Rehov Bar-Ilan, stated that the Badatz (the Eda Haredit's rabbinical court) would have ruled just as one-sidedly in favor of the Shabbat closure as the Supreme Court did in voting against the Shabbat closure, he made a very low estimation indeed of the rabbis of the Badatz.

This is strictly forbidden by Halacha, as summarized by Maimonides in Sefer Mitzvat (Negative Mitzva No. 315): "By this prohibition, you are forbidden to curse a judge."

Does Zilbershlag assume that the rabbis of the Badatz would political-

ly subvert Negative Mitzva No. 278: "By this prohibition, a judge is forbidden to pervert judgment against a litigant whom he knows to be a wicked sinner (i.e., hilul)."

By making the Badatz equal to the Supreme Court in one-sidedness, Zilbershlag would apply the recent epithet of the haredi press, "enemy of the Jewish people," to the rabbis of his own community.

Zilbershlag's is only one voice from a minor non-office. As an NRP voter, I feel that most religious Jews are not so extreme. I hope that he and the haredi press learn some self-control before speaking for the religious community again on this issue.

OYADIA BEN AVRAHAM Jerusalem.

THE JAHALIN BEDUIN

Sir, - I would like to rectify statements made by Evelyn Gordon in her article "Beduin petition against resettlement plan" (August 26), concerning the Jahalin Beduin.

The Jahalin have been living in the area from which the Israeli authorities wish to evict them for more than 40 years. They are not squatters; following their expulsion from the Tel Arad area in the Negev in the early 1950s, they have been tenants in law on land owned by Palestinians from the Jerusalem communities of Abu Dis and Eizariya. The Israeli government claims that this land is "government land" but the documents proving this have been destroyed by the Ministry of Justice and no other proof positive has been offered to support this claim. All changes in ownership by the occupying forces in occupied territory are a breach of international law, and therefore Israeli claims are invalid.

LINDA BRAYER, Executive Legal Director, Society of St. Yves Jerusalem.

BUDGET CUTS

Sir, - In an interview which appeared on August 2, Finance Minister Dan Meridor was asked a question concerning proposed tax cuts in the 1997 budget regarding child allowances. He replied: "And as for the middle classes - 80 percent of the population - yes, they will pay for these cuts... Even those who will pay the entire price of the children's allowances cut will realize it merely equals NIS 130 per month, or one daily cigarette pack."

Meridor's analogy makes me, a nonsmoker, positively fume! For those of us who have long ago given up smoking - in order to save money to help pay for our children's many extra educational school costs, what he calls a "mere" NIS 130 per month cut in our child's allowance will deprive our child of such important and enriching after-school activities as sports, music, nature study, art, etc.

In Meridor's own words, "the rich will continue to lead their good lives." Does this mean that we, the mere 80 percent others, may not? Ma'aleh Adumim. J. ALON

RESIGN!

Sir, - In an interview on Channel 1's Erev Hadash, the deputy mayor of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Israel, Rabbi Miller, called the official flag of the State a blue-and-

white rag. All later explanations and excuses cannot excuse his complete disrespect for the laws of the state. He should resign immediately. Jerusalem. H.H. MENDELSON Herziya. ISRAEL A. GLUCK

"THE UGLY ISRAELI"

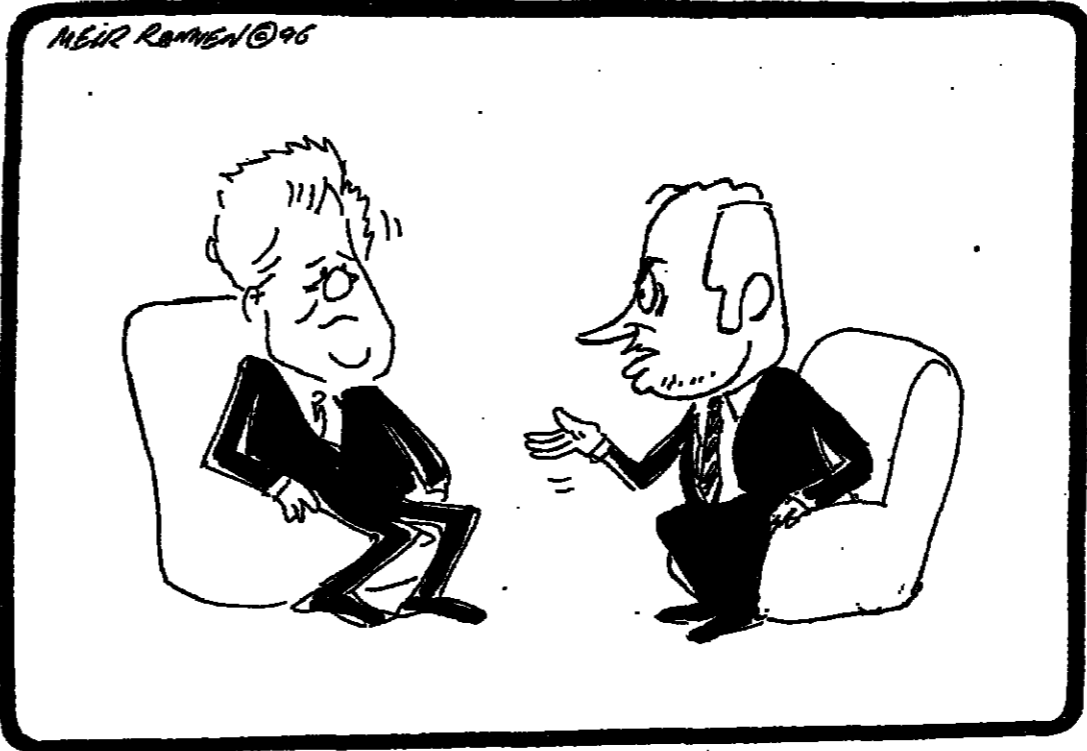
Sir, - After reading Hillel Halkin's column "The ugly Israeli" just above Moshe Kohn's "Never say 'Sorry'" (August 23), the deliberate misrepresentation of Israel in the foreign press looked rather insignificant. Instead of following his advice and dispatching ineffective letters of protest abroad, every caring Israeli should cry out loudly and persistently Gevalt about our own horrible problems, until our leaders wake up and take action - if Mashiah won't beat them to it.

The behavior of many Israelis abroad may be causing much more damage to our image than all the biased reporting that you so consistently deplore. But worse - these people behave at least as badly - or even worse - towards each other at home. Just watch their behavior in the Knesset, on our roads, how they throw stones and dirty diapers at other Jews, hear them shouting "Nazi" at Jewish policemen, read their graffiti. They litter the countryside, they pollute the air with noise. Young Israelis don't talk anymore, they shout. Even the friendliest discussions soon become shouting matches. Come on, Mr. Halkin - you earnestly believe the fable of the compassionate Israeli, who rushes his victim to hospital? It may look good in the paper, but it's just wishful thinking.

And what about the now often mentioned rosh katan - small head - syndrome? Letting somebody else do the fighting is just another manifestation of the "ugly Israeli." And who exploits all these illegal foreign workers? Why is it so hard to find honest parliamentarians - regardless of party affiliation? Because "Jews have always paid more attention to substance than form" - as Mr. Halkin would like us to believe? And why are so many young people leaving the country for good?

Nobody is perfect; other nations have problems, too. But this is little consolation - being the "Chosen People," we are expected to be better than the rest, aren't we? Something has to be done, and fast. The alternative is too horrible to consider: the disintegration of our society - or worse, the destruction of the Third Temple! ISRAEL A. GLUCK

'I'm ready for direct talks with the Likud...'



'Suspicious objects'

MK Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, was reported as saying that "the problem is that people can be elected to the Knesset who owe no loyalty to Israel as a Jewish and Zionist state" (The Jerusalem Post August 29, 1996).

DAN LEON

The Likud's Landau was referring to the participation by MK Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash) in a meeting on "classified matters" of the Knesset Finance Committee, of which he is a member, and in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Sa'ad countered that he wasn't a "suspicious object" but an elected MK, with the same rights as other MKs.

The proposed establishment of a smaller subcommittee to discuss subjects relating to the defense budget is envisioned as a way out of this particular controversy. The real issue deserving of attention, however, isn't a technical one but the statement by Landau apparently intimating - unless he was misreported - that all Knesset members should owe "loyalty to Israel as a Jewish and Zionist state." The last two words are particularly significant, and yet they shouldn't come as any surprise.

to say. "But our grandparents and parents came here not to establish a democratic state, but a state for the Jews."

The late Rabbi Shlomo Goren bluntly declared that "decisions on the future of Eretz Yisrael by an Israeli government that rests upon the votes of non-Jews are invalid."

Where does this leave Israeli Arabs, those non-Jewish citizens, about one-sixth of the total population (most of whom prefer to define themselves as Palestinian Arabs, citizens of Israel)? Expected to number about a million by the year 2,000, 99.9 percent of them have never harmed the security of Israel or any of its citizens.

What of the promise in Israel's Declaration of Independence to ensure "complete equality of social and political rights to all inhabitants, irrespective of religion, race, or sex" and "full and equal citizenship"? The question is particularly relevant because during the Rabin government this commitment, formerly nonbinding from a constitutional point of view, was accepted by the Knesset as one of Israel's basic laws.

THE INHERENT equality of all citizens in a democratic state needs no special pleading. In our case, however, it is also an essential component of the concept that the sovereign state of Israel, in which there is a large

Jewish majority, should do everything in its power to integrate peacefully into the geopolitical region in which it is situated, which is part of the Arab world.

Zionists who saw their movement as one of national liberation will not be able to accept any implication that what MK Landau calls "a Zionist state" must as such involve discrimination against its non-Jewish citizens.

Were this so, it would be an ominous sign for Zionism 100 years after Theodor Herzl founded the movement.

Lastly, whoever coined it and whatever its effect, for many of us the election slogan "Only Bibi is good for the Jews" aroused distressing associations of discrimination. It is equally so with talk of a "non-Zionist majority" or "loyalty to Israel as a Jewish and Zionist state."

Doesn't this approach to a minority of citizens - who, since they aren't Jews, cannot be expected to be Zionists - contain a built-in tendency to legitimize a basic notion of inequality, one that can only undermine the foundations of Israeli democracy as a whole?

All this does is provide additional support for the proposal that Israel be redefined as "the state of the Jewish people and of all its citizens."

The bottom line is this question: In a state of Israel soon to celebrate its 50th anniversary, are all our citizens equal, or are some more equal than others?

If, deliberately or inadvertently, some statements seem to divide Israeli citizenship into first- and second-class categories, we should at least ask the speakers to tell us how this tallies with the promise of equality for all in our Declaration of Independence, now part of Israel's basic laws.

The author is the co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

Are all our citizens equal or are some more equal than others?

Disappointed? Not me

AS soon as the prime minister shook Yasser Arafat's hand, a bitter smile spread across my face.

He'd made it. He was officially following in his predecessors' footsteps. The Likud's first prime minister, Menachem Begin, shook Anwar Sadat's hand and gave the Palestinians legitimacy by referring to them as "a people," promising them autonomy.

The Likud's second prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, continued the trend with his presence at the Madrid Conference, promising to start negotiations with Arafat's representatives. This, of course, led to Oslo 1 and 2, which will very shortly lead to the creation of a Palestinian state.

And now it was Bibi's turn. He had managed to squeak out a very narrow yet impressive electoral victory. Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud's third prime minister, would save the day.

Less than 100 days later, this new savior extended his hand to one of the most brutal murderers of Jews this century. How proud Begin must be - not of his son who keeps talking against the peace process - but of the Likud's newest shining star, the one who betrayed his voters at record speed. How happy Shamir

SHMUEL SACKETT

Netanyahu has lived down to all my expectations. He hasn't closed Orient House, and he never will. He hasn't insisted on PLO compliance with the Oslo accords, and he

never will. He hasn't built new settlements, and he never will. He hasn't made any changes in the leftist-dominated media (in true Begin and Shamir style), and he never will.

And finally, he hasn't released any Jewish political prisoners, although he will soon release Arab ones - making his predecessors proud once again.

Anyone who thought that Netanyahu would be anything more than the third leg in a series of Likud prime ministers hasn't learned from history. I knew Bibi would act this way; and he has played his part to perfection.

The writer is co-chairman of Zo Artztu.

POSTSCRIPTS

FEELING RESTLESS, Pat Fry figured she'd take a cab from her Los Angeles home to 150 kilometers north to Santa Barbara. A week, 3,000 kilometers and \$3,500 later, Fry was in Canada. "I must have been insane," she said with a laugh.

keep driving through Oregon, Washington, on to Vancouver and finally to Victoria. "I've never been north of San Francisco before. I've always wanted to see Vancouver and Victoria. It's marvelous."

and other anti-depressant drugs who find their sexual drive diminished. A third of men who take Prozac suffer loss of sexual drive, which "Libido" can counteract. Jerald Bain, an obstetrician at the University of Toronto, said: "Studies showed improved sexual potency in men who consumed one drink containing the chicken powder, which is available in peach and malt chocolate flavors and is cholesterol-free."

Red CROSS

GREER FAY CASHMAN

ISRAELIS are known to be a contrary people, but here's something that really takes the cake.

Here we are almost at the end of Elul, getting into high gear for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. This is the time of year when we ask God earnestly and repeatedly for another year of life.

Yet so many Israelis - while praying for life - consciously put their lives daily at risk. They do it when they get behind the wheel of a car and speed away; and they do it with a vengeance when they cross the road.

When someone gets run over the tendency is to blame the driver of the car.

He came around the corner too fast. He sped over the pedestrian crossing without stopping. He tailgated. He swung into the wrong lane. He ignored the street lights. He was jayriding. He was drunk.

All this is frequently true - but pedestrians are often equally guilty of causing accidents. Anyone who would take issue with this has only to stand on the corner of a busy intersection or on any main street.

Some pedestrians, as a matter of course, cross on a red light when the street appears empty; others cross defiantly in the face of cars coming from both directions.

This might be understandable, if not excusable, when the offender is in a tearing hurry. But it's usually just a matter of impatience. The offender simply can't wait out that moment or two till light changes. (It's the counterpart of the urge that makes many drivers honk their horns at the guy in front the split second the lights turn green.)

Recently a backpacker crossing on red smirked at me, the sucker still waiting for the green light.

Had she come to Israel to end up as a statistic, I asked her. Stopping short in her tracks, she replied: "Hey, that's very hairy."

"What you did was hairy," I retorted.

"You want to kill yourself, fine."

Had she come to Israel to end up as a statistic, I asked the backpacker

But why involve an innocent driver? And if he pushes hard on the brake to avoid you, how can you be sure there won't be a pile-up behind him and that someone else won't get killed?

She'd obviously never thought about it, but by the expression on her face she clearly felt she'd better get away from this madwoman.

On the intersection close to Jerusalem's Great Synagogue you can see scores of offenders every day. Some of the women push strollers, some have young children in tow.

Their casual jaywalking is criminal, as they endanger not just themselves but the lives in their care.

IT GETS worse over Rosh Hashana.

There used to be a time when cars didn't travel in Jerusalem on these days. But that isn't so any more. Although traffic isn't as heavy on holy days as it is on a weekday or even on Shabbat, there's enough of it to mandate the observance of road safety regulations.

But most worshippers - and I live not far from the Great Synagogue and see it time and time again - leave shul (where they presumably prayed for life) and step blithely across the road, ignoring the red light as if the cars didn't exist. This includes clergymen, members of our judiciary and MKs, whom one might hope would set an example.

Elderly people will often watch the person beside or ahead of them rather than the traffic lights, and promptly follow what he or she is doing.

It's part of the herd mentality, and it isn't just applicable to the old. All you need is two or three jaywalkers out there in front and almost everyone else comes trotting behind them.

Jaywalking isn't smart, no matter how often you get away with it. And even if you don't get hit by a car, those who step out after you might.

It's all very well asking God to give us long life, but if we want to truly jeopardize our lives every time we cross the road, why should He?

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Advertisements for various products including Bat, Venezuela, and Pushing your...

הגדה מן האלול

Battle over rights of stolen Holocaust art

A Jewish-American family is suing to retrieve a painting the Nazis stole from them, reports Marilyn Henry in New York

TRYING to save his art collection even before trying to protect himself, Friedrich Gutmann shipped his paintings from Heemstede, Holland, to a Paris warehouse around 1939. In the end, he saved neither. The paintings were plundered by the Nazis. Gutmann, whose father had converted the family to Christianity, was beaten to death in Theresienstadt. His wife, Louise, died in Auschwitz.

Gutmann's daughter, Lili, and his son, Bernard, survived the war, elsewhere in Europe.

A half-century later, Lili Gutmann, and Bernard's sons, Nick and Simon Goodman, have filed suit to retrieve one painting, a monotype by Edgar Degas. They say the Degas is in the art collection of a Chicago businessman, Daniel Searle, who bought the painting for \$850,000 in 1987.

The legal battle, being waged in US federal court in Manhattan, weighs the rights of the heirs against the rights of a buyer - 50 years later.

"How do you balance that? It's not easy," said Searle's lawyer, Ralph Lerner. "It's clear here that we've got two innocent people, two victims," said John Merryman, a specialist in art law at the Stanford University Law School. "The issue is how we choose between them."

The untitled monotype, overpainted in pastel by Degas has come to be known by its description as "Landscape with Smokestacks."

Gutmann contacted the firm that owned the Paris warehouse where the art had been stored. They were informed that the Rosenberg Action Team, which had looted art from Jewish families throughout the Nazi-occupied areas, had seized the Gutmann collection, according to papers filed in the Goodman lawsuit.

Among the proof were three black-and-white photographs of Gutmann's Impressionist works. The photos secretly had been taken by Rose Valland, a curator at the Louvre who managed to keep a chronicle of the plundered art the Nazis brought to Paris.

The Gutmann children then notified Dutch, French and German authorities, as well as Interpol, in an attempt to retrieve the stolen art.

"All three governments agreed that the paintings were not in Europe, and then the Germans offered a claim for loss of paintings," Goodman said. In 1964, the German government paid the Gutmann heirs about \$40,000 for five paintings.

The authorities said the art was probably behind the Iron Curtain, in East Germany or Russia. "They sort of accepted that," Goodman said of his father and aunt. But, he said, Bernard Goodman, living in Europe, kept looking for the art until his death in 1994, "turning over every stone in Europe."

It was only after their father's death that Nick and Simon Goodman, both citizens of Britain living in Los Angeles, learned from their aunt of the stolen paintings. At the same time, Russia was celebrating displays of Nazi trophy art, and it seemed possible that the Gutmann paintings might be uncovered.

The Goodmans got in touch with Willi Korte, who tracks art stolen by the Nazis. Goodman recalled that "Willi said, 'Maybe the paintings didn't go east; they went west.'"

Beginning a search of American museum and auction catalogs, Goodman found a reference to a Gutmann Renoir in a 1969 catalog. "Willi was right," Goodman said. "They went west."

The Goodmans quickly tracked the Degas to Searle after finding the painting listed in a catalog from a 1994 Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition.

Lerner, Searle's lawyer, said the Gutmann heirs failed to prove "due diligence" in their search for the Degas, because they had sufficient time to claim the painting, which had been exhibited and published several times in the US in the last three decades.

"If the Goodmans were searching for this item, why didn't they find it?" he said in an interview. "They have to prove that [Gutmann] owned it and that he didn't sell it prior to his death in the camps," Lerner said, suggesting that the Gutmann heirs produce a receipt. "The Nazis kept phenomenal records."

"The Goodmans were exceptionally diligent in looking for their losses," said the heirs' attorney, Thomas Kline of Washington.

"If you are told by three governments that the paintings have gone east, you do, as an ordinary citizen, tend to believe them," Goodman said, adding that once he learned of the theft and began working with Korte, the Degas was located quickly.

The lawsuit was filed after a year of fruitless discussions between Searle and the heirs of Gutmann, who had been a member of the family that founded the Bank of Dresden in Germany.

According to Goodman, Searle, scion of the Searle Pharmaceutical Company, did not make an offer to settle the dispute.

Documents provided by Searle, intended to fortify his claim, also appear to bolster the Goodmans.

Emile Wolf of New York acquired the Degas in 1951, and Searle acquired the painting from Wolf in 1987, the Searle documents show.

But the Degas provenance and other documents also show that Hans Wendland, an art dealer who collaborated with the Nazis, acquired "Landscape with Smokestacks" after it has been stolen by Rosenberg. That, Goodman said, should have aroused Searle's attention and seemed to indicate that Searle did not ensure the Degas has a clean title.

"Their own provenance names Wendland, a notorious Nazi art thief. The OSS [US intelligence branch, Office of Strategic Services] deemed him a shady character who was notorious for shady art dealings," Goodman said. "So if the Searle provenance shows that, it's a red flag all over the place."

Korte agreed. If the name of the pre-war owner seems to be Jewish, French, Dutch or Belgian, and there is a gap in the provenance for the 1940s, and the painting reappears in a private collection in the 1950s, he said, that is a "red flag."

In general, though, a provenance's gap during the Nazi era does not always mean the art was expropriated. "There is at least an equal chance that the [owner] needed money and sold it," said Merryman, the Stanford professor, adding that it would be hard to confirm such a circumstance.

"Provenance is primarily a term that arises out of historic - not legal - interest," he said. "It's an intellectual, academic, art-historical kind of interest" that traces what has happened to a work of art since it was made.

The continuity of a provenance is rare, said Gary Vikan, director of the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore. "To the extent that its history is known, it's like a pedigree for a dog."

A good pedigree can boost the artwork's market value, as buyers seek social status and what one dealer called "bragging rights" to own a work once housed by an earlier, famous owner.

A complete provenance is often unusual for many reasons that are routinely accepted in the art world and are unrelated to theft. Dealers do not like to identify the source of a painting, guarding it like a trade secret.

This often suits the owners. They may prefer not to announce to tax authorities or thieves that they have valuable art, or to broadcast through a sale that they may be financially strapped.

"Sometimes it's hard to be absolute in the history of the piece because buyers and sellers remain anonymous," said Searle's lawyer.

Friedrich Gutmann himself was not listed on the provenance of "Landscape with Smokestacks."

"He didn't want the publicity," Goodman said. "My aunt says he was very private about these paintings. That he didn't advertise the fact doesn't mean it was a shady deal. A lot of collectors just don't want the publicity."

While it is widely understood that there will be gaps in a provenance, Korte said certain gaps should set off alarms bells, and he fumed at how nonchalantly many overlook Holocaust-era gaps in European provenances.

He cited one example concerning an Old Master. "The provenance starts nicely in the 16th century. It was bought by a Polish king in the late 18th century. Then it stayed in one or two places in Poland until the 1940s, and then the provenance said, 'After 1945, German private collection,'" Korte said. "You read this and say to yourself, 'This is funny or stupid or terribly brave.'"

Venezuela takes pride in being the beauty-pageant capital of the world

BEAUTY pageants may be politically incorrect in some places, but in Venezuela they're a source of pride.

Two of the country's prettiest threesome last year went on to be named Miss Universe and Miss World. The third, Carla Steinkopf, flies to Tokyo soon for the Miss International pageant.

Chalk the success up to Venezuela's exotic blend of races and a pageant organization dedicated to preserving the nation's reputation for world-class beauties. All eyes are on the winners, and recent reports that Miss Universe Alicia Machado must drop 9 kilograms in two weeks or lose her crown created a front-page stir.

At 1.7 meters, Machado weighed 51 kilograms when she won her crown in Las Vegas on May 17. She had dropped 8 kg. before the competition. Media reports say she now weighs 59 kg. and faces the royal boot.

Miss Universe pageant officials denied giving any ultimatum. "I just saw her yesterday and she looked beautiful," spokeswoman Wooten Lee said, after the alleged ultimatum was announced.

Machado's mother, Marta Fajardo, said her daughter had fear-wisdom-teeth removed a couple of weeks earlier, which made her face swell and may have given the impression she had gained weight.

Venezuelans have won nine top international pageants in the past two decades, more than any other nation. After Machado's victory, President Rafael Caldera proclaimed Venezuela "the world center of beauty." Twice - in 1996 and 1981 - Venezuela has held two of the three top titles in the same year. Only Australia (1972) and India (1994) managed that once.

This year, Venezuela's going for all three, and Steinkopf is confident she's the one to do it on October 27. "It's a huge responsibility I've got in my hands," the 23-year-old model said confidently. "I'm sure I'm going to be successful."

THE ANNUAL Miss Venezuela pageant has no trouble finding contestants. Thousands literally knock on the door of Miss Venezuela House, the Caracas home of pageant organizers.

"I always knew when I used to watch the contest on TV I was going to be there someday," said Adelaida Pifano, 24. She and 27 other young women vied for this year's title - and possible fame and fortune.

The vehicle that transforms pretty women into beauty queens is the Miss Venezuela Organization. Its mastermind is Osmel Sousa, a graphic artist who no longer designs his ideal woman in sketch pads.

Sousa recruits, selects and grooms Miss Venezuela contestants, who are not winners of regional beauty contests. He assigns the state banners - Miss Zulia, Miss Federal District - that they wear on the show. He finds candidates at parties, shopping malls, modeling agencies. He discovered Minorka Mercado, Miss Venezuela 1993, playing volleyball on Venezuela's Caribbean beaches.

"When I look at a girl, I look to see if she is well-proportioned and tall," says Sousa. The face, he says, needn't be perfect - makeup and plastic surgery always are options. Quite a few young women submit to plastic surgery. Most work is on the nose and breasts; liposuction smoothes the thighs.

Steinkopf, who has breast implants, said there's nothing



Contestants in the 1996 Miss Venezuela pageant show off their figures in Caracas.

wrong with a bit of plastic surgery. "If you want to arrange any detail... why not?"

Sousa also discounts criticism of surgically altering contestants. "A girl who puts on makeup also is fabricated," he said. Besides, he said, plastic surgery is common in most pageants. "I'm more sincere. I admit it."

The Los Angeles-based Miss Universe Pageant doesn't prohibit plastic surgery, but "they don't encourage it. They think women are naturally beautiful and don't need enhancing," said spokeswoman Wooten Lee.

At Miss Venezuela House, contestants are sequestered for three months before the annual pageant. They are put on crash diets and work out in the gym for several hours a day. They are taught to walk, talk, sit, stand and dress in certain ways, how to apply makeup and how to answer pageant questions.

Few complain. Winning can be a ticket to a career in television, film, business and even politics - Irene Saez, Miss Universe 1981, is mayor of a Caracas municipality and polls show she is the most popular politician in the country, and some think she may run for president in two years.

Natural beauty is given some credit for Venezuela's success. Venezuelans are a blend of native Indians, former African slaves and Europeans from the conquistadors to refugees from 20th-century wars. "Venezuela has a great mix of races," Machado said. "That's why the girls are so pretty."

Pushing your children

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

ID like help in thinking about the balance between pushing kids and letting them go their own way when it comes to after-school classes. These classes are supposed to be fun but they also have the potential to develop talents and abilities that school doesn't tap.

My 12-year-old daughter takes jazz dance, among other things, and she is really talented. I saw an ad for an advanced dancing class for her age group in town and when I asked her if she'd like to go she said, "No, I'm happy where I am."

My other daughter is good at gymnastics and her teacher asked her to be on a team. But she is starting junior high and grades are becoming more important. In short, how much excellence do you push for and at what expense?

Charlotte Slopak, clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, answers:

It's natural to want the best for your children, to give them every opportunity for enrichment. On the other hand, kids need to be kids, to have some free time and to go at their own pace. Parental expectations may be connected to your wanting your child to have opportunities you missed when you were a child. They may be based on an unrealistic idea of superior performance, without taking into account your child's needs, skills, limitations and feelings.

If you had a shy child who only wanted to sit in front of the television, then you would need to encourage her to join some after-school activities and even give a push in that direction. You seem to have a busy child, involved in several activities. If she is happy, then it would appear that the idea of an advanced class is more for you than for her.

With respect to your older daughter, does she want to be on the team? Does she realize all the time and effort involved? Being on a sports team can be a valuable life experience for a child, but only if she herself is really motivated.

I don't know if this applies to your family, but grades in the seventh grade are an important factor in admission to a competitive high school, so it may be advisable to cut back on activities that year. By the middle of the eighth grade, she can again become involved in her "informal education."

Children sometimes want to quit an after-school activity right away, and you should encourage them to stick it out for a few months. The child will usually need a while to adjust, and will gradually develop a more positive attitude. If she still wants to quit after giving it a fair chance, it is reasonable to let her stop.

Offer and encourage - children may need a push - but distinguish between the needs and interests, talents and maturity of your child, and your own interests and expectations.

Israel Airports Authority
Head Office - Department of Border Terminals

NOTICE TO VACATIONERS USING THE TABA BORDER CROSSING

The Israel Airports Authority has made every effort to provide the best possible service to people going to Sinai over the holidays. In order to ease the border crossing, vacationers are advised to prepare the necessary documentation in advance:

- Passport, valid for at least 3 months (passports cannot be extended at the crossing)
- Army exit permit or stamp in your passport (this also applies to draftees waiting to go into the army)
- Border crossing fee, which may be paid at the terminal or at the following branches of the First International Bank and Postal Bank:

<p>Postal Bank</p> <p>Tel Aviv: Jerusalem: Haifa: BeerSheva: Beit She'an: Ben Gurion Airport: Terminal</p>	<p>Mikve Yisrael Branch - 7 Rehov Mikve Yisrael Main Branch - 23 Jaffa Road Shimonza Branch - 19 Rehov Pal-Yam 9 Sderot Hanesotim Carion Ha'adom Branch - Sderot Hatesarim Rehov HaHatsrut, Municipality Building</p>	<p>First International Bank</p> <p>Tel Aviv: Dizengoff Square Jerusalem: 10 Rehov Hilel Haifa: 3 Rehov Habaridim BeerSheva: 53 Rehov Ha'tzitzim'ut Eilat: New Tourist Center Tiberias: Rasseo Square Afula: Main Branch - 23 Hativa Teisha</p>
---	---	---

Save time and effort! Pay in advance - and save waiting in line.

Travelers entering Sinai with their cars are advised to bring an English translation of their driving license (obtainable at Memei branches all over the country) and comprehensive insurance issued especially for Sinai.

- ✓ Mobile phones may not be taken into Egypt. The phones can be left at the Israeli terminal (fee charged).
- ✓ A new immigrant's laissez-passez is not valid at the Egyptian terminal and the holder must also show a foreign passport.
- ✓ Only private passenger cars and vans are permitted to enter Sinai, and the vehicle owner must be present.
- ✓ Commercial vehicles, diesels, 4 wheel drive vehicles, rented vehicles and trucks are not allowed into Sinai.
- ✓ Those intending to enter Sinai without their car are advised to leave it in a parking lot in Eilat (e.g. Egged or Shekem) and travel to the terminal by bus. There are no parking facilities in the terminal area.
- ✓ Those taking pets with them must bring health certificates for the animals.

No weapons or ammunition are allowed into Egypt.

The Management of the Airports Authority wishes all travelers a Happy New Year. Spokesperson's bureau

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Polgat in talks to establish Egyptian plant

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

POLGAT Industries, a subsidiary of Clal Industries, is in negotiations to establish a sewing factory in Egypt, Clal Israel president and CEO David Wainshal said yesterday.

Polgat hopes the factory will help it compete in international markets and reduce costs, Wainshal said, explaining that the company must adjust to new market conditions in order to survive.

According to Wainshal, the local textile industry can compete in markets where it has a technological advantage or has developed niche markets, such as Kitan's Royal Sateen and Colorcor product lines.

Polgat is currently designing a special lycra fabric for the manufacture of trousers.

During the last two years, more than 40 small textile makers have been forced to close down, primarily due to the establishment of new sewers in neighboring countries and the Far East, where labor is much cheaper.

The larger companies, led by Delta, are gradually moving their labor-intensive operations to Jordan and Egypt.

The textile field, like the rest of the industrial sector, is facing severe problems, reflected in the imbalance between the dollar and the shekel, said Wainshal, adding that the export-oriented compa-

nies are the worst hit.

In the second quarter, Clal Israel's industrial division earnings were almost cut in half to NIS26.8m. from NIS48.09m. in 1995.

Wainshal called on the government to correct its economic policy by cutting the budget and reducing interest rates, which in turn will lead to an adjustment in the exchange rate.

"We cannot continue with such a high budget deficit and dependence on the US for financial assistance," said Wainshal.

Commenting on Clal's future business strategy, Wainshal said the group is continuing with its plans to change its structure by eliminating holding companies.

The program is designed to cut the group's expenses, reduce the decision-making process and increase the value of the company to shareholders.

The group's business strategy also includes diversifying its investment portfolio in companies with unique know-how, specifically in export-oriented companies like ECI Telecom, and in companies that supply the local market with basic products, such as insurance policies.

Clal Israel completed the second quarter with a drop in net profit to NIS 44.57m. from NIS 58.9m. in the same period last year.

August trade deficit tops \$1 billion

DAVID HARRIS

THE country's trade deficit in August reached \$1.05 billion, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. This figure comprised \$2.34b. in imports, against \$1.29b. in exports.

The trade deficit for the first eight months totalled \$7.5b. Imports stood at \$19.8b. in the period, with exports at \$12.3b.

Since March, imports have fallen by a monthly average of 0.6%, excluding diamonds, fuel, ships and airplanes, a yearly rate of 7%. This compares to the consecutive 1% to 1.6% monthly rises in the second half last year.

Exports largely remained unchanged since March, following average monthly increases of 1% in the last quarter of 1995 and the

start of this year.

As a result of the decrease in imports and steadying of exports, the trade deficit has been reduced by an average of 1.7% in the six months to August.

Imports in August comprised diamonds, fuel and ships (26%), raw materials (43%), materials for investment purposes (16%) and consumer goods (15%).

From February to August the import of raw materials slowed by a monthly 0.5%.

A monthly 0.7% drop was recorded in imports of investment goods over the quarter to August, which was mainly caused by a reduction in the number of import-

ed industrial vehicles.

Positive and negative trends were set in recent months in the consumer goods sector: from April to June imports decreased by a monthly 1%, but 0.5% increases were registered in July and August.

Exports in August were of diamonds (18%), industrial goods (80%) and agricultural produce (2%).

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, have steadied this year after monthly increases of 1% in the last quarter of 1995.

Sales of agricultural produce ended the season, which began last October, 15% higher at \$773 million from \$671m. in the previous year.

Mishkan lowers rate on mortgages by 0.4%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Mishkan, Bank Hapoalim's mortgage bank, yesterday lowered its annual interest rates on mortgages by an average of 0.4 percent.

The remaining banks said they intend to wait until after Rosh Hashana before deciding whether to follow suit.

The banks are following developments in the bond market, which determine prices of long-term loans. Recently, there has been a rise in bonds and decline in bond yields. Bond yields determine the price of sources of financing for mortgage banks.

Mishkan's decision to reduce rates is the first time that interest rates have been lowered after several increases in the past half year.

The bank will charge an interest of 5.9% on 10-year loans and 6.3% on loans for more than 20 years. Following the reduction in rates, Mishkan is the lowest-priced bank in the system.



An Israel Electric Corporation worker and a local resident enjoy a waterfall created at Park Nahal Hadera, using heated water from the nearby Orot Rabin Power Station. The IEC facility is sending 16,000 cubic meters of water first used to cool down the facility directly to the park instead of back to the sea, thereby providing water for the waterfall, one of four scheduled to be constructed at the park. (Assaf Shiloh/Israel Sun)

\$750m. Eurobonds agreement signed

DAVID HARRIS

ISRAEL'S \$750 million first entry into the Eurobonds market was officially launched yesterday when the Finance Ministry and seven leading underwriters signed the final agreement.

After the Jerusalem ceremony, the primary underwriter, Merrill Lynch, said all the partners were confident that Israel's economy was now well capable of sustaining this type of venture.

"A slowdown [in growth] from six percent to 4% in real terms is hardly a recession," said the company's Chairman of Global Financial Institutions John Heimann.

The three-year deal is "yet another illustration of the very significant steps in advancing Israel's economy over the last six to seven years," said Finance Minister Dan Meridor. "Israel is now selling its economy and others are buying."

The first \$200m. will be raised in the fourth quarter, with the program running until the end of 1998. It is important to end the program before 1999, the first year without the US loan guarantees, said accountant general Shai Talmon.

He said he was confident of success, following last year's entry into the Yankee bonds market, which was three times oversubscribed.

"We are under the impression that there is a deep, even deepening market now for Israeli government securities, and it will be managed in such a way there will be sufficient demand," said Heimann.

Meridor took the opportunity to criticize media and economic experts, who suggested Israel's world credit rating would be dropped below its A ranking when the announcement was made earlier this week.

The reaffirmation of Israel's A status coupled, with yesterday's signing ceremony, show the strength of the Israeli economy, he said.

In addition to Merrill Lynch, the underwriters for the issue are Daiwa Europe Ltd., Deutsche Bank AG London, Goldman Sachs International, Morgan Stanley & Co. International Ltd., Swiss Bank Corporation and UBS Limited.

Brodet: At least two new groups interested in buying Hapoalim

DAVID HARRIS

AT least two new consortia have expressed interest in acquiring the controlling shares in Bank Hapoalim, Finance Ministry director general David Brodet confirmed yesterday.

One is being led by outgoing Republic NY Corp. president Jeffrey Keil and the other is as yet unnamed.

"There is some other interest, but I don't know if it is mature enough or not," Brodet said.

The Finance Ministry intends pushing ahead with the sale of the controlling interest "for the time being," said Brodet, despite the recent setback of the main bidding consortium, Claridge-Arison's withdrawal.

The August decision to with-

draw by the Claridge group, which also included Goldman Sachs and George Soros, leaves only one bid on the table - that of the consortium led by Eliezer Fishman, which also incorporates Bear Stearns and the US insurance group Reliance.

The Bank of Israel is currently considering the group's eligibility for the bid to control Israel's largest bank.

Keil, who leaves his current post at the end of the month, was unavailable for comment last night.

Republic NY Corp. is part of the Safra group of companies, which owns First International Ltd.,

Israel's only privately owned bank.

As part of the newly revised Banking Law, which compels banks to reduce their holdings in non-financial assets to a maximum of 25%, Bank Hapoalim also must dispose of either its Clal or Koor holdings by the end of this year.

In the past, the Claridge-Arison consortium mentioned Bank Hapoalim's non-financial assets as a major factor in its designs on the bank, with the aim being to improve those holdings' performance and then sell them.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* (to be published in next Wednesday's Money Magazine), says the Brodet committee's recommenda-

tions, which led to the new law, and therefore to a change the terms of the tender, sent out negative messages to prospective purchasers of Bank Hapoalim and to foreign investors in general.

This suggestion was flatly rejected by Brodet.

"Mr. Sharansky, if he said this, is not familiar with all the details," Brodet said. "We did not change anything before the tender, and the Claridge group signed the contract in May with full knowledge. Maybe there is some misunderstanding."

One of the US' largest investors in Israel said last month he doubts the change in conditions had any effect on Claridge-Arison's decision to withdraw. "After all, if they hadn't sealed the deal after two-and-a-half years of negotiations, it's clear they were never going to."

IAI sells mine-locating equipment to Sweden

STEVE RODAN

SWEDEN has purchased an advanced radar system to locate mines from Israel Aircraft Industries, company executives said yesterday.

Executives said the Swedish Defense Ministry purchased the Ground Penetration Radar (GPR), produced by IAI subsidiary Elta, for use by Sweden's UN peace-keeping contingent. The radar can reportedly detect conventional

metal mines and those made of plastic in rough terrain.

The GPR is based on Elta's EL/M-2190 radar, whose system is deployed on a special vehicle operated by remote control.

The vehicle can be led into minefields and sustain an explosion.

Abandoned mines are said to be one of the most pressing problems in Third World countries.

Local, US firms participate in TA's annual Security Exhibition

RAINE MARCUS

AROUND 100 local companies specializing in security equipment designated for the military, police and private sectors are participating in this year's Security Exhibition, which opened yesterday for the 10th straight year at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds.

For the first time, 12 American manufacturers of anti-terror and other security equipment are also participating in the three-day exhibition, as part of the agreement between the Israeli and US governments to combat terrorism.

On the Israeli side, a large variety of items - ranging from alarms, anti-bugging equipment and bullet-proof vehicles to security fences and even surveillance video sunglasses - were on display.

Uriel Bin, director of D-fence, described two of the firm's security fences currently in use along the Green Line and in the Gaza District. The razor-mesh, made of needle-sharp wire, looks like any other

fence. However, it consists of sharp spikes which act as a deterrent and will also "tear intruders to pieces," Bin said. "It was recently erected along the Green Line, near the settlement of Bat Hefer."

Electronic applications can be added to the razor-mesh.

Its second fence, recently built along the border in Gaza, contains electronic sensors and electronic cameras, together with electric currents, which zap would-be infiltrators with a high voltage.

The Audioguard company has developed a sophisticated alarm system currently in use in 400 schools, in response to the controversy over security. "The main enemy of all facilities is false alarms," said director Moshe Cohen.

Audioguard systems, he said, are equipped with both audio and visual appliances monitored from a con-

rol room in municipality buildings, which are aimed at solving the problem of false alarms.

An additional system manufactured by the company may be used to upgrade existing alarms.

The TAR company has developed a series of covert surveillance projects, including sunglasses and a pen with hidden video cameras inside.

The company itself developed the items and has recently embarked on a worldwide marketing campaign.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rate*
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275	3.5451
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	3.1510
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.925	2.125	2.1038
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	2.8702
Yen (10 million yen)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.9.96)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.5138	3.5705	Buy	3.5451
German mark	3.1323	3.1928	Buy	3.1510
Pound sterling	2.0834	2.1171	Buy	2.1038
French franc	4.8683	4.9448	Buy	4.9188
Japanese yen (100)	0.8108	0.8205	Buy	0.8184
Dutch florin	2.8535	2.9027	Buy	2.8901
Swiss franc	1.8589	1.8889	Buy	1.8778
Australian dollar	2.5831	2.5938	Buy	2.5741
Canadian dollar	0.4674	0.4720	Buy	0.4718
Norwegian krone	0.4565	0.4594	Buy	0.4593
Denish krone	0.5403	0.5491	Buy	0.5453
Finland mark	0.6882	0.6968	Buy	0.6944
Canadian dollar	2.2831	2.3220	Buy	2.3062
Australian dollar	2.5088	2.5471	Buy	2.5289
S. African rand	0.8872	0.7065	Buy	0.7098
Belgian franc (10)	1.0110	1.0274	Buy	1.0210
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8912	3.0080	Buy	2.9868
Italian lire (1000)	2.0364	2.0998	Buy	2.0851
Jordanian dinar	4.3600	4.5800	Buy	4.4728
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.8700	Buy	0.8798
ECU	3.9395	4.0031	Buy	3.9702
Irish punt	5.0487	5.1251	Buy	5.0958
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4722	2.5121	Buy	2.4953

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

When You Need The Best Contacts In Israel - New 1996 Editions

ISRAEL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

1996

Key Contacts in the...
 * 1996 Netanyahu Govt. & biographies of all 120 new Knesset members
 * Top 10 Municipalities
 * Key Foreign Embassy & Consulate Staffs
 * Political Parties
 * Largest Government Companies
 * Major Business Organizations & Assoc.

JP Special: NIS 108.00

Israel Marketing & Media Directory

1996

Key Contacts in...
 * Advertising
 * Public Relations
 * Marketing
 * Market Research
 * Broadcast & Print Media
 * Cable TV
 * Major Israeli Advertisers
 * Key Statistics
 * English-Hebrew Marketing Glossary

JP Special: NIS 108.00

Special for Both Directories: NIS 199

To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000 Tel 02-241282

Please send me
 Israel Business & Government Directory: NIS 108
 Israel Marketing & Media Directory: NIS 108
 Special for Both Directories: NIS 199.00

Enclosed is my check, payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details:
 Visa Isracard Diners

Number _____ Exp. _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Code _____
 Tel. _____ ID No. _____
 Signature _____

The Companies Act (New Version) 5743 - 1983
 G.L.V. International (1995) Ltd. Reg. No. 51-207797-5

NOTICE

To Mr. Alan Ganz:
 At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the above Company on 10/9/96 it was resolved to declare forfeited an additional (fourth) 25% of the shares held by you in the Company if payment for said shares is not effected by 30/9/96.

Steven Liebow
 Chairman of the Board

"A fax for you"

All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.

15 minutes and you're gone...

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Attention Subscribers

Going Away on Holiday?

If you wish to suspend your subscription while you're on holiday, please inform us now, so we can efficiently process your request. When calling or faxing, please give us your name, subscriber number, telephone number, and the dates on which you wish deliveries to stop and resume.

Jerusalem 02-5315610 Tel Aviv 03-6390333 Haifa 04-8623166
 Fax 02-5389017 Fax 03-6390277

Thank you for your cooperation, and Chag Same'ah

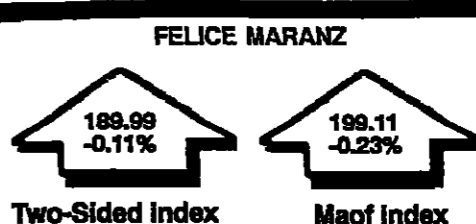
The Circulation Dept.

150 من الاصل

האגף של האגף

Shares drop, halt four-day rise

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS were little changed yesterday following four sessions of gains as chemical companies retreated after rising on Monday amid news of a potential merger. Maktsheshim Chemical Works fell two percent and Agan Chemical Manufacturers Ltd. dropped 0.25%.

Dollar romps, weak Dow blunts rallies

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar romped ahead against the mark yesterday and European bourses also prospered, with British blue chips breaking records, but share rallies were blunted by a weaker Wall Street start.

The dollar sneaked above the psychological 1.50 marks barrier in early European trade. It continued to firm as the day progressed and a wave of fund buying propelled its toward 1.51.

The dollar rally began on Monday after Bundesbank council member Ernst Welteke said there was room for further German interest rate cuts if M3 money supply growth continued to slow.

On the bourses, leading shares in London, Frankfurt and Paris all got an early leg-up by the overnight surge on the Dow, which posted its biggest one-day gain in over a month to close 1.3 percent up.

In morning trading yesterday, London's blue-chip FTSE Index jumped more than 20 points to a record 3,933.6, surpassing its previous record of 3,922.1 set on August 28.

Blue-chip stocks end lower on profit-taking

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended lower yesterday on profit-taking after two straight sessions of large gains, but an inflation warning by a senior central banker rekindled fears that the Federal Reserve may be ready to raise interest rates.

Frankfurt

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF and values for various currencies.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table of stock prices and changes for Multi-sided trading, including Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, and Financial Institutions.

Two-sided trading

Table of stock prices and changes for Two-sided trading, including Investment Companies, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Trade & Services.

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, Oil Exploration

Table of stock prices and changes for Parallel List, including Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Oil Exploration.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various companies like Alcoa, Amgen, and others.

NEW YORK

Table of New York stock prices and changes for companies like Alcoa, Amgen, and others.

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices for items like Corn, Soybean, and Wheat.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices for items like Copper, Nickel, and Tin.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NYSE STOCK MARKETS table showing NYSE, NASDAQ, and other market indices.

Other stock market indexes table showing various international and regional indices.

Israeli stocks in NY table showing prices for Israeli companies listed in New York.

INFL MONEY MARKETS table showing money market rates.

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Labor rates table showing interest rates for different terms.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

INFL COMMODITIES AND METALS table showing commodity and metal prices.

US commodities table showing US commodity prices.

London commodities table showing London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US) table showing spot metal prices.

September 11, 1996

BRIEFS

ward recession: The economic... or instability similar to... conference, Proper... manufacturing industry...

\$750m. Eurobond agreement signed

ISRAELI STEEL... the Eurobond... agreement... \$750 million...

INFL MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Labor rates table showing interest rates for different terms.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

INFL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities table showing US commodity prices.

London commodities table showing London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US) table showing spot metal prices.

Tenerife edges Maccabi

ORI LEWIS and agencies

A LATE second-half penalty taken by Avi Nimni gave Maccabi Tel Aviv an excellent chance of advancing to the next round of the UEFA Cup despite a 3-2 loss to Tenerife of Spain in the Canary Islands last night.

Maccabi played as equals for the first half against the leaders of the Spanish first division before going down 1-0 in added time in the first half, following a goal scored from close range by Vivar Dorado.

Tenerife looked like it would take control of the match in the second half when they scored a second goal on an excellent header by Salvador Kodro in the 56th minute.

Maccabi regained its composure and five minutes later, Ofer Mizrahi hit a beautiful glancing header home from a cross by Yevgeny Kasimets.

Kasimets, in the heat of the game, got himself sent off for a rash foul a minute later and the Spaniards took full control of the match. Luis Pinilla made it 3-1 in the 66th minute, as Maccabi regrouped in defense. But a late surge by Maccabi in the dying minutes saw Nimni break free in the area where he was clearly brought down by the goalkeeper. He made no mistake taking the resulting penalty in the 88th minute to give the Tel Avivians an excellent chance of winning the tie in the return leg at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan in two weeks' time.

UEFA Cup, 1st-round, 1st-leg matches yesterday.

In Newcastle: Newcastle (England) 4, Halmstad (Sweden) 0 (2-0). Scorers: Les Ferdinand (6th), Faustino Asprilla (26th), Philippe Albert (51st), Peter Beardsley (54th).

In London: Arsenal (England) 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach (Germany) 3 (0-1). Scorers: Arsenal - Paul Merson (54th), Ian Wright (89th); Borussia - Andrzej Juskowiak (36th), Steffen Effenberg (46th), Steffen Passlack (80th).

In Birmingham: Aston Villa (England) 1, Helsingborg (Sweden) 1 (1-0). Scorers: Aston Villa - Tommy Johnson (14th); Helsingborgs - Peter Wibran (81st). Glass (57th), Darren Young (65th), Barry Town - Richard Jones (13th).

Man United faces Juventus in European Champions League

TURIN (Reuters) - Reigning European soccer kings Juventus and five former champions including arch-rivals AC Milan set out on the road to glory and riches when the European Cup Champions League gets set to kick off today.

Last season Juventus, who beat holders Ajax Amsterdam on penalties in the final in Rome, collected 18.15 million Swiss francs in prize money alone - not including associated revenue from increased gate receipts and lofty merchandising sales.

Much of that money has gone into rebuilding the side with coach Marcello Lippi beginning the defense of Europe's premier club prize with a new strike force against English champions Manchester United today.

Christian Vieri, a \$10m buy from Atalanta, and Alen Boksic, who signed from Lazio, have taken over from Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianluca Vialli.

Manchester United has now won the Premier League title three times in the last four seasons including the League-Cup double twice in three years and manager Alex Ferguson's desire now is to recapture the European Cup for the club.

He has also invested heavily with Dutchman Jordi Cruyff and Czech Karel Poborsky among his summer signings.

While United is looking for a repeat of its solitary European Cup crown in 1968, AC Milan is eager to capture the Cup for a sixth time to equal Real Madrid's 30-year-old record.

New Uruguayan coach Oscar Tabarez has expressed caution before his injury-depleted side plays 1987 European champions Porto in its opening match, but he has also spent the summer re-shaping his squad after it lifted the Italian title for the 15th time last season.

Dutchman Edgar Davids and Michael Reiziger have swapped the red and white of Ajax for the red and black of Milan along with Christian Duguly from Bordeaux. Milan is many people's favorite for the title it has previously won in 1963, 1969, 1989, 1990 and 1994 and it should get away to a winning start against Porto today.

Ajax, who beat Milan in the 1995 European Cup final and lost its crown to Juventus in May, has made a wretched start to the new Dutch season and is already eight points adrift of league leaders PSV Eindhoven.

Ajax seems to have only a slim chance of reaching a third successive European final but its European presence should help it make a winning start at Auxerre against French champions taking part in the European Cup for the first time.

The sixth club to have lifted the European Cup is Romania's Steaua Bucharest, champions in 1986, who will have more than just Atletico Madrid's players to worry about in Spain.

The match in the Vicente Calderon Stadium will be the first played on the pitch there since an invasion of worms at the ground in August.

On Monday American experts were still supervising the installation of new turf laid over the old grass, a job hampered by heavy rain that fell in the Spanish capital over the weekend. It will be Atletico's first European Cup match for 20 years and they will not want Steaua to wriggle away with a point.

Scottish champions Rangers, who like to regard themselves as among Europe's elite but who have had little tangible success in Europe since winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972, will be looking to improve on last season's record when they failed to win a match in the Champions League.

They travel to Swiss champions Grasshoppers Zurich tonight.

London Tottenham Hotspur.

Graham has long been something of a soccer contradiction. As an elegant but somewhat languid attacking midfielder player, he won the nickname Stroller, which has always stuck with him.

But he was an integral part of the Arsenal side which won the league and Cup double in 1971 and was good enough to win 12 caps for Scotland.

He may have detested training as a player but as a manager he rapidly became known as a strict disciplinarian who insisted on the qualities of running and hard work above all else.

Graham turned down the chance to resurrect first division Manchester City last month after it parted company with Alan Ball, and has made it clear he has accepted Leeds because it has money he can use to rebuild the team.

blood. Sometimes that is what it takes to change things round.

Graham won six trophies in his reign as manager of Arsenal between 1986 and 1995 - the championship and league cup twice and the FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup once each.

Arsenal sacked him in February last year for accepting illegal payments from an agent in two transfer deals and he was later banned from soccer for a year by the Football Association.

On the face of it, Graham looks ideally suited to Leeds, a club which has never rid itself of a 30-year-old image for seeking success through ruthless efficiency rather than by spectacular play or inspiration.

Graham's trophy-winning sides always carried the same reputation and the "Boring Arsenal" jibes were not leveled at them just by the fans of arch-rivals in north

Local hoops season opens as players' strike is averted

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

AFTER finally overcoming a threatened players' strike and other obstacles that looked like they might delay the opening of play, the National Basketball League season gets underway tonight with five contests.

Hapoel Jerusalem hosts Hapoel Eilat tomorrow night in the final game of the opening round of games, in a clash of two teams with their sights on second place.

That's about all anyone can dream of this year, as Maccabi Tel Aviv appears to be too strong an opponent for any of the other teams in the league. The defending champs open their season on the road at Bnei Herzliya tonight, where they'll be tested by Muli Katzurim's tough two foreigners, Todd Mitchell and Terence Shansbury.

The Maccabeans, however, are likely to win handily, especially if Herzliya's Lior Arditi, Ofer Fleischer and Amir Mukhtari still have not signed their contracts.

Hapoel Galil Elyon hosts newcomer Maccabi Ra'anana, while

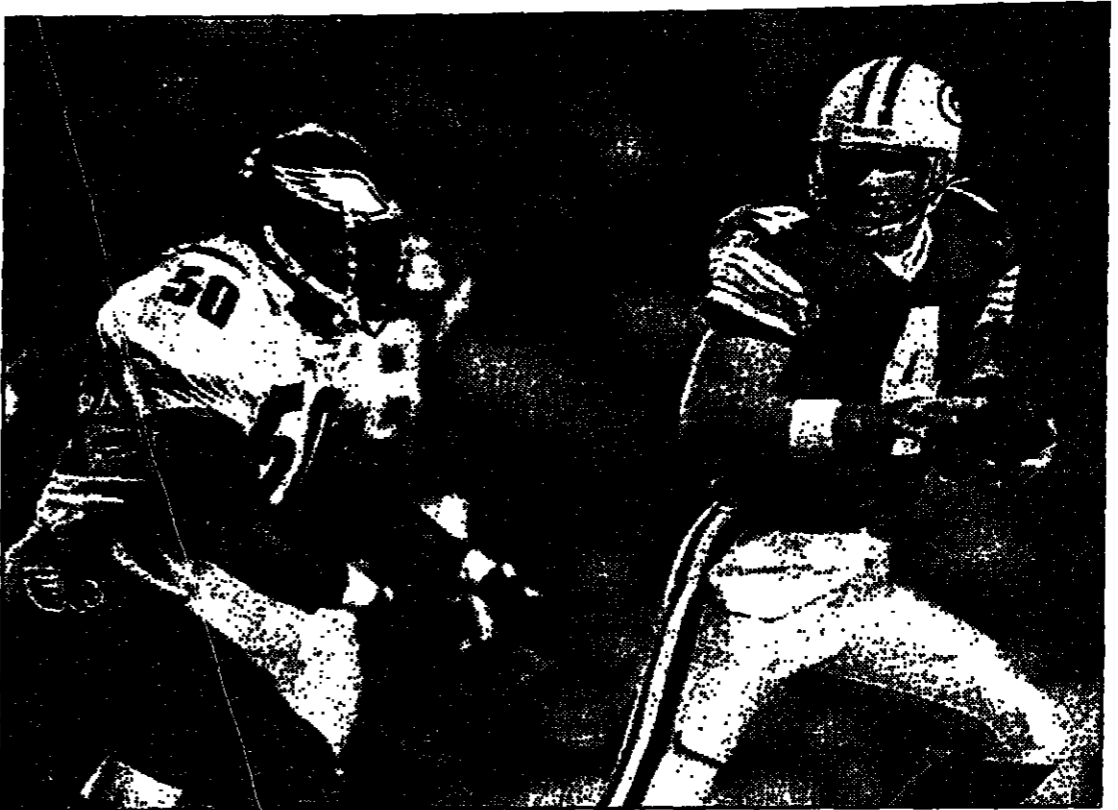
Hapoel Holon is at home vs. Maccabi Ramat Gan. Hapoel Safed - which is without foreigner Andre Spencer who wants more money, and which replaced Melvin Neubern, whom they apparently had no intention of signing, with Tyrone Mays - is on the road for a tough opener vs. Maccabi Rishon LeZion. Hapoel Tel Aviv is at home vs. the league's other newcomer, M.M. Givat Shmuel.

Just which team - Maccabi Ramat Gan or Maccabi Jerusalem - will be playing in the National League was still being decided last night. A five-member league panel was hearing the case of Maccabi Jerusalem, who was earlier demoted after failing to provide necessary guarantees that it could meet its budget. However the panel rules, either Jerusalem or Ramat Gan could appeal the decision and thereby possibly delay tonight's scheduled game vs. Holon.

The threat of a players' strike was averted earlier this week when the league officials and players union representatives signed an agreement, according to which players designated "club players" will belong to the team unless it decides to sell their services. A disaffected player could also reach an agreement with his team to buy back his player's card.

The agreement makes it easier for teams to hold onto players who have grown up with the club, and whom they wish to keep.

While the regular season gets underway, State Cup play has already taken place, with the following second round matchups set for October 23 and November 3: Maccabi Tel Aviv-Hapoel Eilat; Hapoel Galil Elyon-Maccabi Rishon LeZion; Hapoel Jerusalem-Maccabi Ra'anana; Hapoel Tel Aviv-Hapoel Holon; Hapoel Haifa-Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin; Elitzur Rishon LeZion-Maccabi Kiryat Gat; Bnei Herzliya-Maccabi Karmiel; Maccabi Ramat Gan-Maccabi Netanya.



HOT PURSUIT - Eagles LB James Willis chases Packer QB Brett Favre out of the pocket in second-quarter action.

Packer routs Eagles behind Favre

GREEN BAY (AP) - Green Bay Packers rapper-receiver Robert Brooks followed his own advice one week after giving President Clinton his debut CD titled "Jump Into The Stands."

Brooks caught five passes for 130 yards and two touchdowns as the Packers routed the dazed and outmanned Philadelphia Eagles 39-13 in the first Monday Night Football game at Lambeau Field in 10 years.

Brooks vaulted himself into the end zone seats packed with delirious denizens decked in green and gold after TD receptions of 25 and 20 yards from Brett Favre, who overcame a rough start to throw three touchdowns.

Dorsey Levens even got into the act, doing his version of the Lambeau Leap after a 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

A Lambeau Field record crowd of 60,666 watched their Packers go 2-0 for the first time since the strike-shortened 1982 season, when they won their first three Philadelphia fells to 1-1.

Brooks had four catches for 116 yards in the first half as the Packers built an astonishing 30-7 lead at halftime against an Eagles team that thinks it can unseat Dallas as ruler of the NFC East.

Edgar Bennett gained 93 yards on 17 carries and also scored on a 25-yard reception when he

grabbed Favre's pass in the flat and rumbled his way into the end zone for a 37-7 lead with six minutes left in the third period.

The blowout capped an exhilarating week in Green Bay, which began with President Clinton visiting the Packers at Lambeau Field on Labor Day.

In two weeks, Favre, who was 17-of-31 for 261 yards, has seven touchdowns and no interceptions as the Packers have outscored their opponents 73-16.

But it was the Packers' defense that really spoiled the return of Philadelphia coach Ray Rhodes, who served as defensive coordinator in Green Bay from 1992-1993.

The Packers, who had just 16 takeaways last season, already had 10, including four in the first half Monday night that Green Bay converted into 13 points.

Former Eagles defensive end Reggie White and Santana Dotson dropped Rodney Peete in the end zone for a safety with 11:06 left. Peete completed 10 of 25 passes for 142 yards, no touchdowns and three interceptions.

Charlie Garner's 1-yard TD run with 30 seconds left made it 37-13.

NFL's oldest surviving member dies at 97

WINTER PARK, Fla. (AP) - Arda Bowser, the last surviving member of the NFL's first championship team and the league's oldest ex-player, died of congestive heart failure. He was 97.

Bowser played with the Canton Bulldogs' 1922 championship team. A punter, place-kicker, linebacker and fullback, Bowser also was the first NFL player to use kicking tees, which he fashioned from wood. He also contributed the first steel-plated kicking shoe.

The 1922 Bulldogs won the first NFL championship with a 10-0-2 record. Bowser scored two touchdowns and returned a kickoff 90 yards in a 38-0 victory over the Louisville Brecks.

Bowser also played for the Frankford Yellow Jackets of Philadelphia.

He played only four years in the pros, because his full-time employer, White Motor Co., made him quit. He was a college star and was inducted into Bucknell's Football Hall of Fame.

Israeli takes 2nd in 400m run

ISRAELI sprinter Orit Kolodny finished second in the 400-meter run in the Solidarity Games yesterday in Sarajevo. Kolodny finished in 53.97 seconds, 37 secs behind the winner Olabishi Afulabi from Nigeria. Kolodny's time is 32 slower than the national mark.

Post Sports Staff

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS: New York 6, Florida 1; Chicago 3, Montreal 1; Colorado 4, Houston 2; San Diego 6, Pittsburgh 5; Los Angeles 7, Cincinnati 2; St. Louis 6, San Francisco 2.

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS: Cleveland 4, California 3; Milwaukee 6, Boston 0; Baltimore 5, Detroit 4; Texas 4, Toronto 3.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT: Single Weekday - NIS 117 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 11.70. FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 175.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 17.55. MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (package) - NIS 257.40 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 25.74. WEEK RATE (8 insertions) - NIS 351.00 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 35.10. FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 444.80 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 44.48. MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 702.00 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 70.20. Rates are valid until 31.10.96.

DEADLINES offices:

Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 9 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Haifa and 12 noon Thursday in Jerusalem.

DWELLINGS

General

WHERE TO STAY

JERUSALEM LODGES LTD. - Short and long term rentals. Bed and breakfast. P.O. Box 4233, Jerusalem 91044. Tel. 02-611745, Fax: 02-618541.

DWELLINGS

Jerusalem

HOLIDAY RENTALS

GIVAT BET HAKEREM, 4 ground floor, fully furnished, appliances. For holidays. Tel. 02-5893495.

FOR TOURISTS, PLEASANT apartment in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, for holidays. Best locations, air-conditioning. Immediate. Tel. 972-3-966-2070, 972-3-966-8915.

NEAR KING DAVID Hotel, beautifully furnished, equipped, 2 bedroom apartment. Tel. 02-617253.

RENTALS

CENTRAL, LUXURIOUS, RENOVATED, 3 big rooms and gallery. Furnished, garden. \$1,100, from 1.10. Tel. 02-283128.

LARGE 3.5 ROOM apartment. Baka, Arab house, private entrance, garden. Tel. 02-790951.

RAMAT ESHKOL, LARGE, 2.5 furnished, central, elevator, view, \$550, immediate. Tel. 04-824-3107, 02-815660.

SALES

GERMAN COLONY, 2 quiet, central, 20 sq.m. basement, garden, underground parking. Immediate. ISRAELI* Tel. 02-866571

GERMAN COLONY, 3, quiet, central, new building, parking, balconies, immediate. ISRAELI*. Tel. 02-566-6571.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, WOLFSON, 5, 11th floor, view of Knesset, storage, parking, \$495,000. ISRAELI*, Tel. 02-566-6571.

WHERE TO STAY

THE JERUSALEM INN at the City Center - Double or large family rooms, priv. bathroom, T.V./Tel. quality furnished. Tel. 02-282-757, Fax: 02-251-297.

DWELLINGS

Tel Aviv

HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR FOR childcare and house-keeping. Sleep-in. Good salary. Tel. 02-566-8568.

RENTALS

APARTMENT - HOTEL COLONY, N. Tel Aviv, suite, 2 rooms, fully furnished, 7th floor, view of sea. \$1,350. Minimum 6 months, from Oct. 1. Tel. 03-841-0314.

HOLIDAY FLAT IN Ramat Aviv Gimmel, 5, fully furnished, air conditioned, for October. Tel. 03-8414984, 052-544523.

RAMAT - AVIV GIMMEL, 5, luxurious, long term, Azura Chen, 4, see view. YAEEL REALTOR(MALDAN) - Tel. 03 - 842 - 6252.

RAMAT GAN, LUXURIOUS new garden apartment. Prime location, for embassy rental. Tel. 03-6428604.

N. TEL AVIV, 4 rooms, 125 sq.m., furnished, excellent location, parking, air conditioning. Tel. 03-8044034.

DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

HERZLIYA PITUAH, 3-4 bedrooms, sea-side house, large garden, long/short term. Inexpensive. Tel. 03-6956270, 09-504827, 052-503870, fax: 03-6956265.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, CHARMING house, 6 bedrooms, furnished, swimming pool, long term. ILMAM REAL ESTATE. Tel. 09-6688611.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, FOR rent, 4 bedroom cottage with swimming pool, long lease, immediate entry. TO MORAN REAL ESTATE. Tel. 09 - 572759.

HERZLIYA, 5.5, LARGE office basement, sunny terrace, well-kept garden. Tel. 09-508216.

SALES/RENTALS

HERZLIYA PITUAH, FOR rent/sale, luxurious house & swimming pool. See view. Tel. 09-540984, 050-231725.

SALES/RENTAL

HERZLIYA PITUAH, LUXURIOUS house & swimming pool. See view. Tel. 09-540984, 050-231725.

SALES

GERMAN COLONY, 2 quiet, central, 20 sq.m. basement, garden, underground parking. Immediate. ISRAELI* Tel. 02-866571

CAESAREA, PUBLIC SALE, new villa 550/200, high standard building. Price starting from \$1,100,000. *Caesarea Real Estates Yvitta* Tel. 06-3670999.

CAESARIA, LUXURIOUS HOUSE with swimming pool, air conditioning & central vacuum. See view. Tel. 06-3632611, 050-237125.

HERZLIYA BET, COTTAGE, 250 sq.m. on 400 sq.m., private, \$700,000. Possibility to rent, immediate. Tel. 050-232424, 052-551177.

DWELLINGS

Haifa and North

SALES

HOUSE IN Kfar-Veradim, 220 sq.m., on 3/4 dunam, + additional apartment. \$320,000. Tel. (04) 952-8784, (04) 9573559.

BUSINESS OFFERS

Tel Aviv

BUS. PREMISES

TO LET, 3 STORY building, Hayarkon, Tel Aviv, for any purpose, TIYUCH HADEKEL, Tel. 09-7875182.

SERVICES

Tel Aviv

PHONE RENTAL

CELLULAR PHONE RENTAL - Rent free. Only pay for usage. *Caesarea Real Estates Yvitta* Tel. 03-668-6688, fax: 03-668-6688.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Jerusalem

HOUSEHOLD HELP

HOUSEKEEPING HELP, ENERGETIC, 3-4 times a week, good conditions. Tel. 02-582-1181.

WANTED: ENGLISH - SPEAKING responsible girl for afternoon child-care. Tel. 02-5721615.

EXPERIENCED HOUSECLEANER WANTED 2-3 times weekly. Tel. 02-252180.

OFFICE STAFF

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, 8:30 - 17:30 daily, mother tongue english, college Hebrew, perfect typing in English, independent personality, knowledge of Word Perfect Tel. 02-618518.

SECRETARY, AMERICAN YESHIVA, full time, English mother tongue, bilingual, word processing skills. Tel. 02-610735.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, 8:30-5:30 daily, mother-tongue English, college Hebrew, perfect typing in English, independent personality. Knowledge of Word Perfect. Tel. 02 61 61 65 18

SITUATIONS VACANT

Tel Aviv

ENGINEERING

YOUNG TECHNICAL SALESMAN mechanical engineer or technical experience - English mother tongue, good Hebrew, opportunity with 40 year company. PO Box 110 Givat Shmuel 54100.

GENERAL

CROATION, KOREAN AND Scandinavian speakers wanted. Call Elizabeth, 03-5824222.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

FORGET THE REST!! We are the best!! The biggest and oldest agency in Israel. For the highest quality live-in jobs phone Au Pair International. 03-8190423.

IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE

friendly families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Harna Tel. 03-9659937.

METAPLET, LIVE-IN, RAMAT-HASHARON, Tel. 03-5910247, weekdays, Noah; 03-6409537, Sat.

OFFICE STAFF

FINNISH AND DANISH speakers wanted! High salary! Call Michael, Tel. 03-575-8255.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Southern Coast

HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR, LIVE-IN, for twins + house-keeping in Rishon LeZion. Experience references. Tel. 03-962-3118.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Sharon Area

HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR, 1 BABY + housekeeping, live-in, references, experienced. Tel. 09-774-8656.

PURCHASE/SALES

General

FOR SALE

1.78/28 (M) RELIGIOUS speaks religious girl 20-25. Write: P.O. Box 4570, Haifa.

ARIE PALOGE - QUALITY CARS: buying, selling, leasing, trading. Tel. 02-6523735, 050-240977.

Media Planner

* Proven work experience as media planner in an advertising/media agency.

* Dynamic "team player" with the capability of working under pressure.

* Fluent in English (Other languages and/or Hebrew is a plus).

Please contact Mariana Buteriu. Tel. 03-5202626, or Fax. CV to 03-5279096.



